



Remains of Pearl Harbor sailors return home after 77 years

HONOLULU (AP) — More than 75 years after nearly 2,400 members of the U.S. military were killed in the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, some who died on Dec. 7, 1941, are finally being laid to rest in cemeteries across the United States. In 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency exhumed nearly 400 sets of remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii after determining advances in forensic science and genealogical help from families could make identifications possible. They were all on the USS Oklahoma, which capsized during the attack, and had been buried as unknowns after the war.



In this Dec. 5, 2012, file photo, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu displays a gravestone identifying it as the resting place of seven unknown people from the USS Oklahoma who died in Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Associated Press

Continued on Next Page

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In this July 7, 2018 file photo, U.S. Navy sailors fold the U.S. flag draped over the casket with the remains of Seaman First Class Leon Arickx at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Osage, Iowa.

Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR

Continued from Previous Page

Altogether, 429 sailors and Marines on the Oklahoma

were killed. Only 35 were identified in the years immediately after the attack. The Oklahoma's casualties were second only to the USS Arizona, which lost 1,177 men.

As of earlier this month, the agency has identified 186 sailors and Marines from the Oklahoma who were previously unidentified. Slowly, the remains are being sent to be reburied in places like Traer, Iowa, and Ontanogan, Michigan.

Here's a look at some of those who have either already been reburied this year or who will be interred on Friday:

DURELL WADE

Wade was born in 1917 in the Hardin Town community of rural Calhoun County, Mississippi. He enlisted in the Navy in 1936 and in 1940 re-enlisted for another two-year tour.

His burial in his home state was originally planned for a weekend, when it would be more convenient for people to attend. But because of scheduling conflicts at the North Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery, his family decided the 77th anniversary of the attack would be an appropriate date, even if some people have to take time off, said his nephew, Dr. Lawrence Wade.

He was one of the sailor's relatives who provided DNA to help identify him.

"My middle name is his name, Durell. My grandson has that name also," said the 75-year-old retired psychiatrist from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "I'd gone through my life not really knowing anything about him, other

than I carried his name and he was killed at Pearl Harbor. Once this DNA process came along and made it possible to identify his remains, it just made him much more of a real person to me."

Wade's siblings included four older sisters and one older brother, according to a bio prepared by his nephew. The Wade children were educated by two teachers hired by their parents to live in the home and teach them until a community school was built on donated property. Wade had written home in September 1941 that he had just taken promotion tests from Aviation Machinist Mate 2nd Class to Chief Aviation Machinist Mate. His nephew has been planning his funeral. A gospel singer will sing the national anthem. Bagpipes will play. Pilots will conduct a flyover. Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant and Capt. Brian Hortsman, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Meridian, will make remarks.

WILLIAM BRUESEWITZ

Renate Starck has been pondering the eulogy she'll give at the funeral for her uncle, Navy Seaman 1st Class William Bruesewitz, on Friday.

"We always have thought of him on Dec. 7," she said. "He's already such a big part of that history." Bruesewitz, of Appleton, Wisconsin, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. "It's a real blessing to have him returning and we've chosen Arlington because we feel he's a hero and belongs there," Starck said.

About 50 family members from Wisconsin, Florida, Arkansas and Maryland will attend.

"We were too young to know him but we're old enough that we felt his loss," Starck said. "We know some stories. There's this stoicism about things from that time that kept people from talking about things that hurt."

Bruesewitz's mother died in childbirth when he was 6 or 7, Starck said. Her father and Bruesewitz were close brothers. When Bruesewitz was 14, they built barns in Wisconsin, Starck said. They were educated in Lutheran schools.

WILLIAM KVIDERA

Hundreds of people filled a Catholic church in Traer, Iowa, in November for William Kvidera's funeral. The solemn ceremony in his hometown included full military honors, the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported.

"It's something like a dream," his brother, John Kvidera, 91, said.

John Kvidera was 14 when he found out about the bombings at Pearl Harbor and remembers huddling around a radio to find out what was going on. The family initially received a telegram saying William, the oldest of six siblings, was missing in action.

A telegram in February 1943 notified the family of his death.

ROBERT KIMBALL HOLMES

The remains of Marine Pfc. Robert Kimball Holmes were interred in August in his hometown of Salt Lake City. □

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Bushes depart on first presidential funeral train since 1969

By WILL WEISSERT and DAVID J. PHILLIP

SPRING, Texas (AP) — The locomotive was painted to resemble Air Force One, but George H.W. Bush joked that if it had been around during his presidency, he may have preferred to ride the rails rather than take to the skies.

"I might have left Air Force One behind," Bush quipped during the 2005 unveiling of 4141, a blue and gray locomotive commissioned in honor of the 41st president and unveiled at Texas A&M University.

On Thursday, that same 4,300-horsepower machine left a suburban Houston railyard loaded with Bush's casket for his final journey after almost a week of ceremonies in Washington and Texas. The train then embarked on a slow roll to his presidential library in College Station, passing thousands of people who stood along the tracks. Many of them held up their phones for pictures and watched from highway overpasses.

One of the first small towns to greet the train was Pinehurst, where Andy Gordon, took his 6-year-old daughter, Addison, out of school so she and her 3-year-old sister, Ashtyn, could witness the moment firsthand.

"Hopefully, my children will remember the significance and the meaning of today," said Gordon, 38. In Addison's hand were two small American flags.

At one point, state troopers hovering in a helicopter ordered people to get off the tracks as the train approached. Some onlookers left coins on the tracks to be flattened into keepsakes.

More than two hours after departing, the train rolled to a stop in College Station, where Bush was to

be laid to rest at a private ceremony next to his wife, Barbara, who died in April, and his daughter Robin, who died at age 3 in 1953. Family members, including former President George W. Bush, were also aboard the 12-car train that was greeted by student cadets and mourners upon arriving at Texas A&M University.

The train's sixth car, a converted baggage hauler called "Council Bluffs," was fitted with transparent sides to allow the mourners lining the tracks views of Bush's flag-draped coffin. The train rolled past the flashing lights of firetrucks, some hoisting American flags from their ladders, and past state troopers who saluted from the side of the tracks. It is the eighth presidential funeral train in U.S. history and the first since Dwight D. Eisenhower's body traveled from the National Cathedral in Washington through seven states to his Kansas hometown of Abilene 49 years ago. Abraham Lincoln's funeral train was the first, in 1865.

Robert F. Kennedy was never president, but he was running for the White House when he was assassinated in Los Angeles in 1968. His body was later transported to New York City for a funeral Mass and then taken by private train to Washington for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Thousands of mourners lined the tracks for the 200-plus-mile journey.

Union Pacific originally commissioned the Bush locomotive for the opening of an exhibit at his library titled "Trains: Tracks of the Iron Horse." It was one of the few times the company has painted a locomotive any color other than its traditional yellow. After a brief training session

during 4141's unveiling 13 years ago, Bush took the engineer's seat and helped take the locomotive for a 2-mile excursion.

"We just rode on the railroads all the time, and I've never forgotten it," Bush said at the time, recalling how he took trains, and often slept on them, during trips as a child with his family. He also called the locomotive "the Air Force One of railroads." □



In this Oct. 18, 2005, file photo, a new locomotive numbered 4141 in honor of the 41st president, George H.W. Bush, is unveiled at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

Associated Press



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Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signs an order withdrawing an Obama era emissions standards policy, at the EPA Headquarters in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

By **ELLEN KNICKMEYER**
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency acted again Thursday to ease rules on the sagging U.S. coal industry,

this time scaling back what would have been a tough control on climate-changing emissions from any new coal plants. The latest Trump admin-

Trump EPA acts to roll back control on climate-changing coal

istration targeting of legacy Obama administration efforts to slow climate change comes in the wake of multiplying warnings from the agency's scientists and others about the accelerating pace of global warming.

In a ceremony Thursday at the agency, acting EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a proposal to dismantle a 2015 rule that any new coal power plants include cutting-edge techniques to capture the carbon dioxide from their smokestacks.

Wheeler called the Obama rules "excessive burdens" for the coal industry.

"This administration cares about action and results, not talks and wishful thinking," Wheeler said.

Asked about the harm that coal plant emission do people and the environment, Wheeler responded, "Having cheap electricity helps human health."

Janet McCabe, an EPA air official under the Obama administration, and others challenged that. McCabe in a statement cited the conclusion of the EPA's own staff earlier this year that pending rollbacks on existing coal plants would cause thousands of early deaths from the fine soot and dangerous particles and gases.

The EPA was "turning its back on its responsibility to protect human health," McCabe said Thursday.

Environmentalists, scientists and lawmakers were scathing, saying the Trump administration was undermining what they said should be urgent efforts to slow climate change.

The EPA and 12 other federal agencies late last month warned that climate change caused by burning coal, oil and gas already was worsening natural disasters in the United States. It would cause hundreds of billions of dollars in damage each year by the end of the century, the government's National Climate Assessment said.

"This proposal is another illegal attempt by the Trump administration to prop up an industry already buck-

ling under the powerful force of the free market," Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Rhode Island Democrat and member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said in a statement.

"Did the EPA even read the National Climate Assessment?" Whitehouse asked. It's unclear whether the new policy boost will overcome market forces that are making U.S. coal plants ever more unprofitable.


Competition from cleaner, cheaper natural gas and other rival forms of energy has driven down coal use in the United States to its lowest level since 1979, the Energy Information Administration said this week. This year will see the second-greatest number of U.S. closings of coal-fired power plants on record.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said the EPA's action Thursday was "targeting another regulation that would have made it nearly impossible to build any new plants."

Citing that and other Obama administration moves to tamp down emissions from coal-fired power plants in the national electrical grid, McConnell called the proposal "a crucial step toward undoing the damage and putting coal back on a level playing field."

Jay Duffy, a lawyer with the Clean Air Task Force environmental nonprofit, called the level-playing field argument of the administration and its supporters "laughable." □

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Avenatti agrees to give up assets to estranged wife

By AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michael Avenatti has agreed to turn over to his estranged wife a corporate jet, Ferrari and other assets as part of their divorce settlement. Orange County Judge Carol Henson on Tuesday accepted the agreement stipulating that some of Avenatti's assets be liquidated and sold for back child and spousal support. He also must pay at least \$80,000 to Lisa Storie-Avenatti by Jan. 2.

Avenatti, who represents porn star Stormy Daniels in her lawsuit against President Donald Trump, previously agreed to pay Storie-Avenatti more than \$150,000 a month in child and spousal support.

Among the assets Avenatti is turning over are a

2017 Ferrari GT Spider, five watches including a Rolex that retails for \$12,000, a sculpture by famed architect Frank Gehry and a six-seat business jet worth millions.

Avenatti stressed that development was an agreed-upon deal as part of his divorce proceedings. He said he and his ex-wife came to an agreement, known as a stipulation, in which certain assets would be transferred to her and she would sell them. The court then approved the deal.

"This was done by way of a negotiated consensual agreement. I wasn't ordered to do anything," he said.

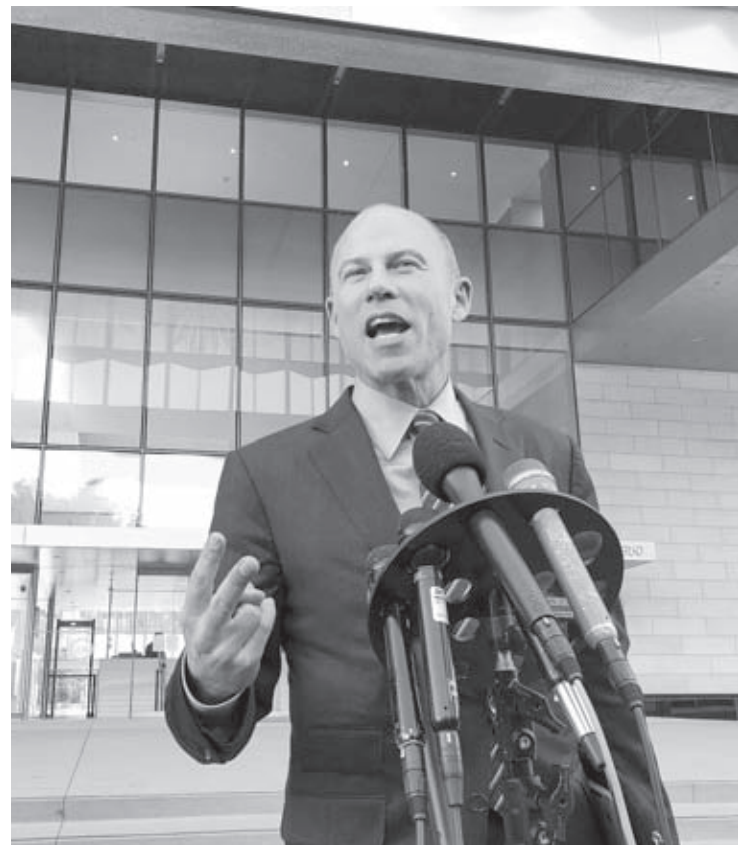
The 47-year-old Avenatti announced Tuesday that he's not running for president following a couple tumultuous weeks for the

attorney, who has been a scathing Trump critic.

Avenatti was arrested on Nov. 14 on a felony domestic violence charge stemming from allegations he roughed up a girlfriend. Prosecutors declined to bring felony charges against him in the case, but they are still investigating whether he should face a misdemeanor charge. Avenatti has vehemently denied wrongdoing.

On Monday, Trump's attorneys asked a judge for nearly \$800,000 in attorneys' fees and penalties from Daniels for her failed defamation lawsuit, which was filed by Avenatti. Daniels has appealed the decision tossing the lawsuit, and Avenatti has said he expects to prevail at a higher court.

Avenatti tweeted that he



Michael Avenatti, lawyer for porn actress Stormy Daniels, speaks to reporters outside federal court in Los Angeles Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

made the decision not to run for president in 2020 at the urging of his family, and if not for their concerns, he would go for it.

Daniels has said she had an affair with President Donald Trump in 2006, a claim Trump denies. □

California first state to mandate solar power for new homes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California became the first state in the nation to require homes built in 2020 and later be solar powered, following a vote by the Building Standards Commission. The unanimous action on Wednesday finalizes a previous vote by the Energy Commission and fulfills a decade-old goal to make the state reliant on cleaner energy.

"These provisions really are historic and will be a beacon of light for the rest of the country," said Kent Sasaki, a structural engineer and one of six building standards commissioners. "(It's) the beginning of substantial improvement in how we produce energy and reduce the consump-

tion of fossil fuels."

While nobody spoke Wednesday in opposition, the commission received about 300 letters opposing the mandate because of the added cost, the Orange County Register reported.

Energy officials estimated the provisions will add \$10,000 to the cost of building a single-family home — about \$8,400 from adding solar and about \$1,500 for making homes more energy-efficient. But those costs would be offset by lower utility bills over the 30-year lifespan of the solar panels, officials said.

One commission member worried the mandate would make it harder for California wildfire victims to



In this photo file taken Monday, May 7, 2018, solar panels are seen on the rooftop on a home in a new housing project in Sacramento, Calif.

rebuild. But supporters assured him that won't be a problem, according to the newspaper.

Homeowners will have two options that eliminate upfront costs of adding solar: leasing the solar panels or

signing a power purchase agreement that pays for the electricity without buying the panels, said Drew Bohan, executive director of the energy commission. One solar-industry representative said the net

savings from adding solar power will be around \$40 a month or nearly \$500 a year.

"These standards won't necessarily make homes more expensive to buy. What they will do is save money on utility costs," said Pierre Delforge, a senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "This is not only the right thing to do for the climate, it is financially smart."

Homebuilders have been preparing for years to meet a proposed requirement that all new homes be "net-zero," meaning they would produce enough solar power to offset all electricity and natural gas consumed over the course of a year. □

Family separations at border down, but dozens still affected

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration separated 81 migrant children from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border since the June executive order that stopped the general practice amid a crack-down on illegal crossings, according to government data obtained by The Associated Press.

Despite the order and a federal judge's later ruling, immigration officials are allowed to separate a child from a parent in certain cases — serious criminal charges against a parent, concerns over the health and welfare of a child or medical concerns. Those caveats were in place before the zero-tolerance



Migrants traveling with children walk up a hill to a waiting U.S. Border Patrol agent just inside San Ysidro, Calif., after climbing over the border wall from Playas de Tijuana, Mexico, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

turned to their prior levels." At its height over the summer, more than 2,400 children were separated. The practice sparked global outrage from politicians, humanitarians and religious groups who called it cruel and callous. Images of weeping children and anguished, confused parents were splashed across newspapers and television. A federal judge hearing a lawsuit brought by a mother who had been separated from her child barred further separations and ordered the government to reunite the families.

But the judge, Dana Sabraw, left the caveats in place and gave the option to challenge further separations on an individual basis. American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt, who sued on behalf of the mother, said he hoped the judge would order the government to alert them to any new separations, because right now the attorneys don't know about them and therefore can't challenge them.

"We are very concerned the government may be separating families based on vague allegations of criminal history," Gelernt said.

According to the government data, from April 19 through Sept. 30, 170 family units were separated because they were found to not be related — that included 197 adults and 139 minors. That could also include grandparents or other relatives if there was no proof of relationship. Many people fleeing poverty or violence leave their homes in a rush and don't have birth certificates or formal documents with them.

Other separations were because the children were not minors, the data showed.

During the budget year 2017, which began in October 2016 and ended in September 2017, 1,065 family units were separated, which usually means a child and a parent — 46 due to fraud and 1,019 due to medical or security concerns, according to data. □

policy that prompted the earlier separations at the border.

The government decides whether a child fits into the areas of concern, worrying advocates of the families and immigrant rights groups that are afraid parents are being falsely labeled as criminals.

From June 21, the day after President Donald Trump's order, through Tuesday, 76 adults were separated from the children, according to the data. Of those, 51 were criminally prosecuted — 31 with criminal histories and 20 for other, unspecified reasons, according to the data. Nine were hospitalized, 10 had gang affiliations and four had extraditable warrants, according to the immigration data. Two were separated because of prior immigration violations and orders of removal, according to the data.

"The welfare of children in our custody is paramount," said Katie Waldman, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees U.S. immigration enforcement. "As we have already said — and the numbers show: Separations are rare. While there was a brief increase during zero tolerance as more adults were prosecuted, the numbers have re-



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This Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, photo released by Tulare County Sheriff's Office shows Margaret Gieszinger, a high school teacher in central California who was arrested on suspicion of felony child endangerment, after forcibly cutting the hair of one of her students while singing the National Anthem, authorities said.

Associated Press

California teacher arrested for forcibly cutting boy's hair

VISALIA, Calif. (AP) — A high school teacher in central California was arrested on suspicion of felony child endangerment after forcibly cutting the hair of one of her students while singing the national anthem, authorities said.















Margaret Gieszinger was arrested Wednesday after videos posted to social media showed a student at University Preparatory High School in the city of Visalia sitting in a chair at the front of the classroom as Gieszinger cuts his hair. In a video obtained by KFSN-TV, the 52-year-old science and chemistry teacher is heard belting the "Star Spangled Banner" while cutting chunks of the boy's hair and tossing them behind her. The circumstances of what led the teacher to cut the student's hair were not immediately known.

After cutting the boy's hair, Gieszinger grabs at a girl's long hair before the students make a run for it out of the classroom, the video shows. □

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France fears more riots; Museums, Eiffel Tower to close

By ANGELA CHARLTON
ALEX TURNBULL

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Authorities across France braced Thursday for the possibility of more riots and violence at anti-government protests this weekend, holding emergency meetings and deploying tens of thousands of police and security forces. Museums, theaters and shops in Paris announced they would close Saturday as a precaution — including the city's famed Eiffel Tower.

Police unions and city authorities met to strategize on how to handle the protests on Saturday, which are being held even though French President Emmanuel Macron surrendered Wednesday night and cancelled a fuel tax hike that had unleashed weeks of unrest.

On the other side of France's volatile social debate, disparate groups of protesters did the same thing, sharing their weekend plans on social networks and chat groups.

Prime Minister Edouard



In this Saturday, Sept. 8, 2018 file photo, participants perform yoga in front of the Eiffel Tower as part of the sport event "La Parisienne", in Paris.

Associated Press

Philippe told senators Thursday that the government will deploy "exceptional" security measures for the protests in Paris and elsewhere, with additional new forces on top of

Speaking on TF1 television, Philippe said 89,000 police officers will be deployed on Saturday across France — up from 65,000 last week-

end.

In Paris alone, 8,000 police officers will be mobilized. They will be equipped with a dozen armored vehicles — a first in a French urban area since 2005.

Some "yellow vest" protesters, French union officials and prominent politicians across the political spectrum called for calm Thurs-

day after the worst rioting in Paris in decades last weekend.

Macron agreed to abandon the fuel tax hike, part of his plans to combat global warming, but protesters' demands have now expanded to other issues hurting French workers, retirees and students. And in a move questioned by both critics and supporters, the president himself has disappeared from public view.

The prime minister reiterated the government's plan to scrap a fuel tax rise planned by the previous government because of the "extreme tensions" France is facing.

"No tax deserves to put civil peace in danger," Philippe said.

The rioting in Paris has worried tourists, prompted the cancellation of four French league soccer matches this weekend around the country and damaged the local economy at the height of the holiday shopping season. Rampaging groups last weekend threw cobblestones through Paris storefronts and looted valuables in some of the city's richest neighborhoods.

The Eiffel Tower, along with more than a dozen museums, two theaters and other cultural sites in Paris, will be closed Saturday for security reasons. The Paris Opera has cancelled planned

performances Saturday on its two Parisian sites.

Two music festivals in Paris have been postponed and the Arc de Triomphe remains closed since it was damaged in last weekend's protest, which left over 130 people injured.

Paris police have also urged shops in the city's high-end Champs-Elysees area to close Saturday as a precaution.

Protests simmered Thursday in several French regions.

Scores of protesting teens clashed with police at a high school west of Paris, as part of nationwide student protests over new university admissions procedures and rising administrative fees.

Drivers wearing their signature yellow safety vests continued to block roads around France, expanding their demands to include broader tax cuts and wider social benefits.

A small union representing police administrators called for a strike Saturday, which could further complicate security measures. Two police union officials told The Associated Press they are worried that radical troublemakers from both the far right and far left will hijack Saturday's protests.

Meanwhile, videos on social media of police beating protesters at a Burger King near the Champs-Elysees have stoked the protesters' anger. A police spokeswoman said Thursday that an investigation is underway into that incident and police are examining other videos circulating online for possible violations.

Macron, the central target of the protests, has been largely invisible all week. After winning election overwhelmingly last year, the 40-year-old pro-business centrist has sought to make France more competitive globally. But his efforts have alienated even some supporters with badly explained reforms like tax cuts for the rich to spur investment in France. Many protesters feel Macron has an elitist, out-of-touch attitude that ignores the country's high taxes and high unemployment. □

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2 US warplanes crash off Japan; 1 dead, 5 missing

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — One of two crew members recovered after two U.S. warplanes collided and crashed off Japan's coast early Thursday is dead and five others remain missing, the U.S. military said.

The Marine Corps said the other recovered crew member was in fair condition.

It said an F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet and a KC-130 Hercules refueling aircraft collided during training at about 2 a.m. after taking off from their base in Iwakuni, near Hiroshima. The seven crew members included two in the F/A-18 and five in the KC-130.

The Marines said in a statement that the two planes were involved in routine training, including aerial refueling, but that it was still investigating what was happening when the accident occurred.

The crash took place 320 kilometers (200 miles) off the coast, according to the U.S. military. Japanese officials said it occurred closer to the coast, about 100 kilometers (60 miles), and that's where the search and rescue mission found the two crew members.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force, which dispatched aircraft and vessels to join in the search operation, said Japanese rescuers found one of the

crew from the fighter jet in stable condition. The Marines said the crew member was taken to a hospital on the base in Iwakuni and was in fair condition, but did not provide any other details.

Japan's coast guard also joined the search.

President Donald tweeted on Thursday that his thoughts and prayers are with the Marine Corps crew members involved in the collision. He thanked the U.S. Forces in Japan for their "immediate response and rescue efforts" and said "Whatever you need, we are here for you."

The crash is the latest in recent series of accidents involving the U.S. military de-



In this aerial photo, Japan's Coast Guard ship is seen at sea during a search operation for U.S. Marine refueling plane and fighter jet off Muroto, Kochi prefecture, southwestern Japan, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

ployed to and near Japan. Last month, a U.S. Navy F/A-18 Hornet from the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan crashed into the sea southwest of Japan's southern island of Okinawa, though its two pilots were rescued safely.

In mid-October, a MH-60

Seahawk also belonging to the Ronald Reagan Sea shortly after takeoff, causing non-fatal injuries to a dozen sailors.

More than 50,000 U.S. troops are based in Japan under a bilateral security pact. □

Rwandan court drops all charges against opposition figure

BY IGNATIUS SSUUNA, Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Rwanda's high court on Thursday acquitted the country's most prominent opposition figure of all charges related to her election challenge of President Paul Kagame, as judges said the prosecution failed to provide proof of insurrection and forgery.

Diane Rwigara's case has drawn global attention as Kagame again faces pressure to give more space to critics in this highly controlled East African country. Rwigara's mother, Adeline, 59, also was acquitted of inciting insurrection and promoting sectarianism. Both women had denied the charges.

The courtroom, packed with diplomats and supporters, erupted in applause as Diane Rwigara and her mother were overcome with tears. Excited relatives who had prayed before the hearing for protection swarmed them with hugs.

The 37-year-old Rwigara, who had denounced the charges as politically motivated, had faced 22 years in prison if convicted. She was arrested after trying to

run in last year's election, and is the rare person to publicly criticize the government from inside the country.

"I will continue my campaign to fight for the rights of all Rwandans," a surprised but happy Rwigara told reporters after celebrating. "This is the beginning, because there's still a lot that needs to be done in our country."

She said she will move ahead with her People Salvation Movement, an activist group launched shortly before her arrest to encourage Rwandans to hold their government accountable. And she thanked everyone who pressured the government to free her.

U.S. senators in recent days urged Rwanda's government to drop the charges against her, with Sen. Dick Durbin noting "what appears to be highly questionable charges against Rwigara for seemingly running for office peacefully." Rwanda's justice minister and attorney general in a statement said the government respects the verdict and "will carefully study its implications."

But it added: "We condemn all attempts by external ac-



Diane Rwigara, the country's most prominent opposition figure, is hugged by a wellwisher after being acquitted of charges related to her election challenge of President Paul Kagame, at the high court in Kigali, Rwanda Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

tors to inappropriately influence judicial processes in Rwanda."

The three-judge panel said there was no proof that Rwandans had been incited against the state after Rwigara's remarks to the media, and that intercepted WhatsApp audio files of her mother did not incite insurrection and instead were private conversations.

Some Rwandans in the capital, Kigali, said they were

shocked by the court's decision. "I thought the government was angered by Rwigara's criticism and she would be convicted," said Moses Hirwa, a mechanic. Speaking to The Associated Press ahead of her court appearance, Rwigara remained defiant, saying no amount of pressure will silence her. "I hope to be cleared of all these made-up charges but I am ready for any outcome," she said, calling the courts

unpredictable and lacking independence.

Kagame is praised for leading Rwanda's recovery from the 1994 genocide and for advances in economic development and women's rights, but critics say he does not tolerate criticism. His government rejects such accusations.

The government in September pardoned thousands of prisoners, including an opposition party leader and a political activist, and several analysts said Kagame was loosening the country's political space.

Rwigara last year acknowledged the risks of running against Kagame, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders. Soon after she announced her intention to run, nude photos purportedly of her that she said had been manipulated were published on social media in what her supporters called an effort to undermine her credibility.

Rwigara later was disqualified from running, with the government saying she lacked enough supporting signatures and had forged some of them. Kagame won a third term with more than 98 percent of the vote. □

OPEC delays oil output decision pending Russia talks

By KIYOKO METZLER
CARLO PIOVANO
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — OPEC countries hoping to support the price of oil put off their decision Thursday on how much to reduce oil production until they negotiate with ally Russia on Friday on how much it will contribute to the cut.

Some saw it as a sign that the group of oil-producing nations may not have the political unity to rein in supply and is suffering under political pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to not push prices up again. Others interpreted it as a tactic to get Russia to agree to big cuts as well.

The price of oil has fallen about 25 percent because major producers — including the U.S. — are pumping oil at high rates. It fell further on Thursday after OPEC's lack of action and amid broader concerns about global economic growth. Saudi Arabia, the heavy-weight within OPEC, said Thursday it was in favor of a cut of about a million barrels



Minister of Energy of the United Arab Emirates, UAE, Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei talks with Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, from left, OPEC Secretary General of Nigeria prior to the start of a meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, at their headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

rels a day.

But upon leaving the meeting, Saudi oil minister Khalid Al-Falih said "we're still deliberating." He said the OPEC countries were still discussing the distribution of the cuts between them. Iran, Saudi's regional rival and fellow OPEC mem-

ber, has resisted any notion of cutting its output as its crude exports are being pinched already by U.S. sanctions. It has wanted an exemption.

The OPEC countries will now discuss the meeting with Russia, which is not part of OPEC but has been coordinating its output levels to support the market. Al-Falih said a decision would take all day Friday. "I'm not confident," he add-

ed.

Some experts saw that as a tactical move by OPEC countries to not announce a production level as they prepare to ask Russia and several other smaller non-OPEC countries to also cut their output.

"If they would, then (Russia and others) could adjust their negotiation strategy," said Jan Edelmann, analyst at HSH Nordbank.

Whatever the logic, the

lack of clarity put another dent in the price of oil. The international benchmark, Brent, was down \$2.20 at \$59.36 a barrel on a day when stock markets also fell sharply around the world. The fall in the price of oil will be a help to many consumers as well as energy-hungry businesses, particularly at a time when global growth is slowing. And Trump has been putting pressure publicly on OPEC to not cut production. He tweeted Wednesday that "Hopefully OPEC will be keeping oil flows as is, not restricted. The World does not want to see, or need, higher oil prices!"

While Saudi Arabia has indicated it is willing to cut production, its decision may be complicated by Trump's decision to not sanction the country over the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. U.S. Senators say, after a briefing with intelligence services, that they are convinced that Saudi's de-facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was involved in Khashoggi's death. Some experts say that gives the U.S. some leverage over the Saudis, though Al-Falih denied that on Thursday. □



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New Zealand police search for 22-year-old British tourist

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand police were searching Thursday for a 22-year-old British tourist who has been missing for five days and failed to contact her parents on her birthday.

Grace Millane was last seen on Saturday evening in central Auckland. She had been staying at a backpacker hostel and left some of her belongings there. Her birthday was on Sunday and police said it was unusual for her not to contact her family then.

Detective Inspector Scott Beard told reporters the

investigation is focusing on videos from surveillance cameras around the city. He urged anyone who has seen Millane or knows her to contact police.

"The police investigation today has concentrated on her movements and activities in Auckland since she's arrived in New Zealand," Beard said. "A large part of that focus has been around CCTV footage around Auckland." Police released a blurry image of Millane taken from a surveillance camera in which she is wearing a black dress and white sneakers.

"The longer this goes on the more concerning it

is," Beard said. "At the moment, we don't have any evidence of foul play but we're keeping an open mind."

Beard said Millane's father was on his way to New Zealand.

Millane's brother, Michael Millane, posted an appeal for help on Facebook. He said they had been in contact with the British High Commission in Wellington. "Grace has been missing for five days," he wrote. "She has not returned to her hostel room in Auckland, New Zealand, and family members have had no contact since Saturday 1st December." □

Prisoner swap deal bolsters hopes of progress in Yemen talks

By DAVID KEYTON
BRIAN ROHAN

Associated Press

RIMBO, Sweden (AP) — Yemen's warring sides agreed to a broad prisoner swap Thursday, sitting down in the same room together for the first time in years at U.N.-sponsored peace talks in Sweden aimed at halting a catastrophic war that has brought the country to the brink of famine.

Hopes were high that the talks wouldn't deteriorate into further violence as in the past, and that the prisoner exchange would be an important first step toward building confidence between highly distrustful adversaries.

The 3-year-old conflict pits the internationally recognized government, which is backed by a Saudi-led coalition, against Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who took the capital of Sanaa in 2014. The Saudis intervened the following year.

U.N. envoy Martin Griffiths said the two sides have signaled they are serious about de-escalating the fighting through calls they've made in recent weeks, and urged them to work to further reduce the violence in the Arab world's poorest nation, scene of massive civilian suffering.

"I'm also pleased to announce the signing of an agreement on the exchange of prisoners, detainees, the missing, the



An exterior view of Johannesberg Castle, in Rimbo, 50km north of Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday Dec. 4, 2018.

Associated Press

forcibly detained and individuals placed under house arrest," Griffiths said from the venue. "It will allow thousands of families to be reunited, and it is product of very effective, active work from both delegations."

The international Red Cross said it would oversee the prisoner exchange, which is expected to take weeks. The talks in the Swedish town of Rimbo, north of Stockholm, aim to set up "a framework for negotiations" on a future peace agreement, Griffiths said, calling the coming days a milestone nonetheless and urging the parties "to work in good faith ... to deliver a

message of peace."

The fighting in Yemen has generated the world's worst humanitarian crisis and claimed at least 10,000 lives, with experts estimating a much higher toll.

The Saudi-led group has conducted thousands of airstrikes, hitting schools, hospitals and wedding parties in what critics call reckless bombardment. The Houthis have, for their part, fired long-range missiles into Saudi Arabia and targeted vessels in the Red Sea. Both sides stand accused of war crimes.

U.N. officials, however, have sought to downplay expectations from the talks, saying they don't

foresee rapid progress toward a political settlement but hope for at least minor steps that would help to address Yemen's worsening humanitarian crisis and prepare a framework for further negotiations.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the talks and urged the parties to make progress on the agenda outlined by Griffiths, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in New York.

The U.N. chief appealed to the warring parties "to continue the de-escalation of (the key port city of) Hodeida and explore other measures to mitigate the life-threatening economic

and humanitarian situation," Dujarric said.

Some Yemeni voices on both sides fired off last-minute demands, sniping commentary and finger-pointing, while combat continued on the ground in some areas.

Fighting raged in the central city of Taiz, long a contested battleground, where residents were hopeful yet highly skeptical they had much to look forward to amid the poverty.

"We here in Taiz have been three years without salaries, and still we are here in the street, looking for an income," said local Faisal al-Asali from a street cafe.

Griffiths said the talks would address several main points mentioned by both sides: broader prisoner exchanges, the release of funds to the central bank to pay civil servants in rebel-controlled territory, a possible handover of the port at Hodeida to the U.N., and rebel calls to lift the coalition's blockade of Sanaa airport to commercial traffic.

"I believe that we can also here in the coming days find solutions on specific issues that will improve co-operation and reduce suffering," he said.

Both the internationally recognized government, which is backed by the U.S.-sponsored Saudi-led coalition, and the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels say they are striving for peace. □



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Brazil president: Not worried about looming corruption cases

By PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) —

President Michel Temer said Thursday he was not worried about corruption charges that could lead to his being jailed after leaving office Jan. 1.

In a meeting with foreign correspondents in the presidential residence in Brasilia, Temer said the cases were without merit, even if he said they nixed chances his administration could achieve major reforms, such as to the pension system.

"I'm at ease. I don't have the least bit of worry," Temer said, adding he believed they would be thrown out.

As a sitting president, Temer has partial immunity, which has helped him avoid criminal prosecution. Twice the lower Chamber of Deputies in Congress, which must weigh in on matters involving the president, voted against putting Temer on



Brazil's President Michel Temer speaks during a breakfast with foreign correspondents in the presidential residence in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

trial for charges leveled by the attorney general.

When the 78-year-old leaves office, however, those cases will go to the normal court system.

Over the last four years, numerous businessmen and politicians, including ex-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, have been convicted and jailed amid a

sprawling corruption investigation called "Car Wash." The cases against Temer are connected to that larger probe, which focused on construction compa-

nies paying politicians for favors, often with money from inflated public works contracts.

Legal observers believe the cases against Temer are strong and will likely move forward. In recent weeks, local news media have reported that Temer might be given an ambassadorship by the incoming administration of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro.

Such a position would give Temer the partial immunity given to federal lawmakers, cabinet members and several other top officials. The law stipulates that only the nation's top court, the Supreme Federal Tribunal, can decide whether to allow charges to go forward or put any particular official on trial, which in practice slows any prosecution. But granting such an appointment would be problematic for Bolsonaro, who ran on promises of "zero tolerance" for corruption. □



A black plume of smoke rises after an explosion at the Polyplas plant in the Villas Agricolas neighborhood in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

Explosion at Dominican plastics company kills 4, injures 66

By DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) —

Authorities in the Dominican Republic said Thursday that the death toll from an explosion at a plastics company rose to four and they continued searching for two missing workers.

Meanwhile, the number of injured rose to 66, with five people in critical condition following Wednes-

day's blast in the capital of Santo Domingo, according to a statement from the National Health Service. Among the injured are 13 children who were attending school nearby.

Edwin Olivares, sub-director of the Emergency Operations Center, told The Associated Press that at least two people are still missing. He also said that officials have not been

able to identify two of the four victims.

Olivares said many workers survived the large explosion at the Polyplas company because they followed security protocols.

Business owner Manuel Diez Cabral tweeted that 98 percent of staff members were evacuated following what he said was an "uncontrollable" gas leak. □

LOCAL



Christmas Fair 2018 at the Promenade in San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS — Aruba Events Foundation together with Aruba Art Fair would like to invite you to the Christmas Fair 2018 that will take place at the Promenade in San Nicolas. It will be a memorable evening for the whole family.

The City of San Nicolas knows as Chocolate City or Sunrise City will be completely transformed into a Real Christmas Village. Together with the department of Infrastructure which has always been in charge of decorating the streets of San Nicolas they managed to turn the Promenade into a unique attraction with art and lights. Imagine walking under the spectacular skies surrounded by magnificent artpieces made by local artist Richard Wout, trees all decorated in different styles and all focusing on the extraordinary murals. The Christmas Fair will be

from 6 PM till 11 PM.

The Program

Enjoy a spectacular show presented by our local young artists Kitai de Jong, Ivy-Ann Bryson and followed by Rejoice Choir. Kozlov Dance Theatre will be presenting the famous Christmas Musical the Nutcrackers Suite. Also the wellknown Gregory Goedgedrag and his band and choir will be singing Christmas carols and gospels. Thaissa Aleyne and her group will be dancing and singing on the beat of Christmas carols. Club di Movimento will be presenting different classic ballet with their ballet dancers from all ages. The night will be closed with a huge surprise.

NATURE AND FACES

During Christmas Fair 2018, there will be an exhibition of Nature and Faces. Over

70 pictures were sent with the reflection of the most beautiful and unique faces of the Arubans and also our nature. Everyone present will be able to vote for the top 5. The winners will be exhibiting their art pieces in Colombia, Miami and the Netherlands.

Project "Making a child happy"

This evening the organization will continue with their project "Making a child happy" in which over 100 kids will be part of a Christmas dinner and will also receive presents and much more. The majority of these kids are working at the Aruba art Fair and have been part of it for over 3 years. Many of these kids are also outstanding athletes which makes the organization extremely proud of them.

The public will be able to take family pictures sur-

rounded by the unique art pieces, handmade art, murals or even with Santa Claus. Get to know San Nicolas' museums, culture and art in this wonderful Christmas ambience.

It will be a night filled with music, dance, singing,

beautiful Christmas decoration and so much more presented by Aruba Event Foundation for San Nicolas. The best of it, It's completely free!! For more information check out their website www.arubachristmasfair.com or call at 5934475. □



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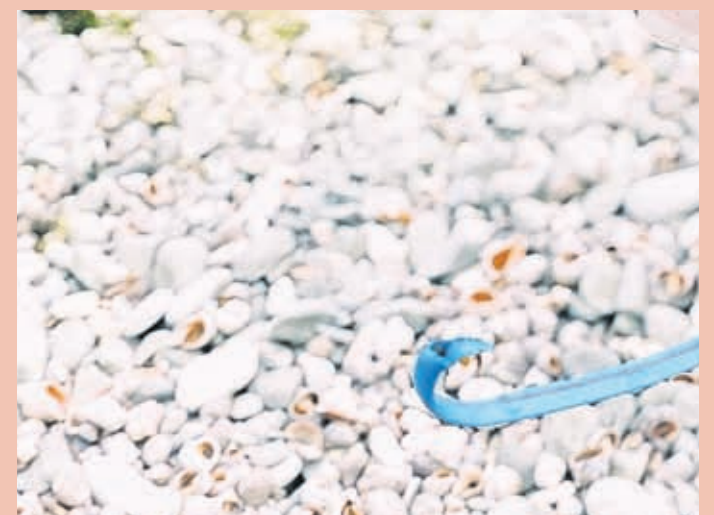
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The Government of Aruba officially announces that the import, production and selling of plastic, oxybenzone and styrofoam are forbidden per January 1st, 2019. Sanctions will apply from January 1st, 2020.



Ateliers '89 presents Fashion show and Exhibition 'Goldenhero'



ORANJESTAD — Ateliers '89 gladly presents Fashion show and Exhibition "Goldenhero" by Agatha Mickiewicz

wicz from Poland and Kristina Czika from Hungary. The event will take place tonight December 7th 2018 at Ateliers '89.

After a successful workshop that started on November 12th of 2018, given by these 2 international artists, participants are ready to show you what they have learned. The teachers of the workshop 'Hero's in Fashion' taught the participants how to design and make the costume of their own personal hero. This means something different for everybody and every hero has his own identity. In the workshop they learned how to translate identity into fashion by using color, fit and choice of materials.

Designer Agata Mickiewicz was born in Poland but studied and worked in many other places in the world. She studied fashion

in Wroclaw (Poland), the Academy of Fine Arts Antwerp (Belgium) and the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. She worked for, among others, the design studios of Iris van Herpen, Victor and Rolf, Rick Owens and Gosia Baczynska. In Poland she worked as a costume designer on various television series and taught at the Foundation Atelier in Warsaw. She recently lived in Reykjavik (Iceland) and will soon be based in Berlin (Germany).

Kristina Czika was born in Hungary but studied design at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. She now lives in the Netherlands for 5 years. There she made, among other things, a large musical instrument from recycled paper for the Muziek Gebouw on the IJ in Amsterdam. She has done several residencies including recently in Colombia. Lately an exhibition of her paper project was shown at gallery Pouloeff in Naarden (NL).

The fashion show and Exhibition will be outrageous. There will be a special presentation of Singer Shuga Mama from Curacao accompanied by DJ Adriano Nanof and artist VJ Styrmir Gudmundsson. Local make-up artist gen Roga will also delight you with her magic.

Participants of the workshops that took place in November will also be displaying their art pieces. They are Velvet Zoe Ramos, Candice Richardson, Ligia Violenus, Mims Ras, Francesnid Girigorie, Natalie Boye, Camille angela, Dimanche Irvin, Rita Erasmus, Jenifer Jacobs, Lixanne Gemerts, Angelain Ras, Judith Werleman, Rodrigo Perazza, Luis Anibal Villegas and Derrick Santiago Webb.

The event will take place at Ateliers '89 located at Dominicanessestraat 34, Oranjestad and will start at PM. For more information visit the Facebook page of Ateliers '89 or call 565-4613.



Travel Tips

Aeropuerto Internacional
Reina Beatrix
ARUBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY N.V.

1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.





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Honoring at Aruba Beach Club

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and Friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The honorees are:
Mrs. Angela Poulimenos,
Mrs. Nancy Rossbach-McShane,
Mrs. Donna Morgan,
Mrs. Angela Lora and
Mrs. Jennifer & Mr. Danny Honan

De Cuba together with representatives of Aruba Beach Club presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as her home away from home for so many years.

□



National Hero elevated with Project Boy Ecury



ORANJESTAD – A project dedicated to the national hero Boy Ecury was recently presented at Boy Ecury square. In honor of the memory of the World War II Aruban hero the foundation Friends of the National Archive (Fundacion Amigonan di Archivo (ADA)) and coordinator Daniella Britt organized the event.

Almost two years ago ADA was approached by the

National Archive to realize the project in the light of the Year of the Resistance, supported by Dutch organizations. 2018 is the year dedicated to the War Resistance within the Dutch Kingdom, whereas those serving the Resistance during World War II are being honored. The Boy Ecury project was the only project that was created outside of the Netherlands. The project enhances a

research and collection of documents about Boy Ecury and his life.

The result of the project was presented by a group of distinguished guests, among them were the governor, Minister of Culture Xiomara Ruiz-Maduro and Yvonne Laclé-Dirksz. Also present were members of the Ecury family. This took place in the park where the statue of Boy Ecury proudly

resides. Several speeches and a play were part of the ceremony.

Importance

The director of the National Archive, Raymond Hernandez, is happy with the results of the Boy Ecury project. He expressed hope that with this project, the national hero will be elevated to a higher level. Nearly 75 years ago Boy Ecury passed away in the Netherlands and now community has the chance to know about this war hero and the way it affects thoughts about freedom, war and memorials. The project was carried out under the strict guidelines set by the National Archive and the Britt, with the help of Shanaya Geerman on digitalization, did a tremendous job. "It shows that the younger generation also have an interest in the work of archiving and that gives hope", says the director. Ecury's family played an important role in the achievement of the project as they have been sharing documents with the National Archive about Boy since 1996. The guide is valuable to those who wish to know more about Ecury. The documents and materials used are kept in the National Archive, as well as the National Library.

Bonus for the Archive

The plus point for the National Archive is that many documents that were in a doubtful condition now have been digitalized, making the information more accessible to the public. In the end the archive's aim is to inventory, restore and preserve valuable materials to make them accessible to the public. Besides that there is the opportunity to achieve private archives that have a historical value like the one of the family Ecury.

Film & Music

During the event the public could also enjoy a video showing Boy Ecury with some friends enjoying his last Christmas dinner. The video was created in the Netherlands and now forms part of the collection at the National Archive. The theatre play that was performed is directed by John Freddy Montoya and showed the young Boy Ecury while he was hiding from the Germans and writing his experiences and emotions in letters to his mother. Musician and pianist Johnny Scharbaay played the same composition that was to be heard 71 years ago, in 1947, at Boy Ecury's funeral. □



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SPORTS



USA Gymnastics files for bankruptcy after sex- abuse scandal

AP Sports Writer

USA Gymnastics is turning to bankruptcy in an attempt to ensure its survival. The embattled organization filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition on Wednesday in an effort to reach settlements in the dozens of sex-abuse lawsuits it faces and to avoid its potential demise at the hands of the U.S. Olympic Committee. USA Gymnastics filed the petition in Indianapolis, where it is based. It faces 100 lawsuits representing over 350 athletes in various courts across the country who blame the group for failing to supervise Larry Nassar, a team doctor accused of molesting them. Nassar, 55, worked at USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University for decades. He is serving effective life sentences for child porn possession and molesting young women and girls under the guise of medical treatment. Kathryn Carson, the recently elected chairwoman of USA Gymnastics' board of directors, said the organization's goal is to speed things up after mediation attempts failed to gain traction. "Those discussions were not moving at any pace," Carson said. "We as a board felt this was a critical imperative and decided to take this action." The filing does not affect the amount of money available to victims, which would come from previously purchased insurance coverage, she said.

Continued on Page 23



Curry's 42 leads Warriors past Cavaliers in faux Finals rematch

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, drives to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, in Cleveland. The Warriors won 129-105.

Woods holds talks over 2019 pre-Presidents Cup schedule

By **BRUCE MATTHEWS**

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— U.S. captain Tiger Woods will have discussions with golf officials in Melbourne on how to best prepare his team for the 2019 Presidents Cup next December at Royal Melbourne.

Woods, in Melbourne for a promotional visit, said the talks later Thursday would focus on the options of the Americans playing his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, coming to Melbourne the week prior for practice with sand-belt techniques, or playing the Australian Open as the lead-up event at The Australian in Sydney.

"We have to figure out some logistical things between now and then and that's the reason I'm here," Woods said.

"We've got a few meetings here today to try to get a plan going forward so we can get the best that we can at the Hero as well as get everyone here from the Bahamas rested and prepared and ready to play." Woods indicated that no announcement would be made on the outcome of the talks until he returned to the U.S.

Officials announced last



U.S. captain Tiger Woods poses for photos for fans during a media conference in Melbourne, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

month that the Australian Open, the fifth-oldest championship in golf, would be played Dec. 5-8 and organizers were excited about another strong field. The Presidents Cup is set for Dec. 12-15.

Woods was a rookie on the 1998 American team that lost to the Internationals for the only time in the history of the event. Many on the U.S. team played the Australian Open at Royal Adelaide that year the week

prior to the Presidents Cup. "It was late in December and we didn't have the wrap-around schedule that we do now. The guys took quite a bit of time off and, quite frankly, we weren't prepared to play and we got smoked," he said.

"I would encourage them to stay competitive late in the year. That's what we learned in '98, the guys weren't competitive, they had shut it down. So, hopefully, they'll play my event in

the Bahamas. If not, they'll stay competitive, stay sharp. Trying to get guys to stay sharp when it's their break time is going to be the challenge."

Woods said he will tailor his 2019 playing schedule in a bid to be playing captain in his ninth Presidents Cup. He shares the record of 24 wins with Phil Mickelson and had a 2-3 record in 1998 and again in 2011 at Royal Melbourne.

"I'm part of the team either

way. After the (2019) Tour Championship, we'll have the top eight guys and, hopefully, I'll be part of the eight," Woods said. "If not, myself and my vice-captains will figure out among the other players who are the best four players to serve this team."

Only Hale Irwin has played the Presidents Cup as a captain when he performed dual roles for the U.S. in the inaugural 1994 event.

"I got a little bit of experience (in dual team roles) as vice-captain this past year with the Ryder Cup," Woods said. "Jim (Furyk) thought my role was better being focused on playing. I was part of conversations of who should be part of the team and now fast-forward to next year and I'll be relying on my vice-captains to get a lot of their opinions and also my team, whether I can play and do both roles." Woods said he didn't think Royal Melbourne had changed much in the seven years since he last visited Australia.

"It really hasn't, it looks about the same," Woods said. "It's one of the most unique courses you can play; it's so short, so fast and so tricky." □

'El Tata' thanks fans for support ahead of Atlanta farewell

By **CHARLES ODUM**

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Tata Martino's love affair with Atlanta's soccer fans didn't have to last long to have meaning.

On Thursday, Atlanta United's coach expressed his appreciation for the fans' record-breaking support as his team prepared for Saturday's MLS Cup final against the Portland Timbers.

"First I just want to say thank you to Atlanta for letting me participate from the very beginning in the birth of this new club," Martino said through a translator.

Martino's leadership played a lead role in Atlanta's meteoric rise as a MLS power. Led by MLS MVP Josef Mar-



In this Nov. 25, 2018, file photo, Atlanta United head coach Gerardo Tata Martino directs his players in a MLS soccer playoff game against the New York Red Bulls, in Atlanta.

tinez, Atlanta United is trying to win the MLS title in only its second season as an expansion franchise.

Along the way, Atlanta

has set MLS attendance records for a single game and season. Another record is expected Saturday when a crowd of more

than 70,000 is expected to pack Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Atlanta United set a single-game attendance record of 72,243 against Seattle on July 15.

Martino was voted MLS coach of the year after announcing this would be his final season. Saturday will be his farewell to Atlanta fans, leaving behind a legacy that will be difficult for his successor to match. The former Barcelona and Argentina national coach reportedly is headed to Mexico's national team.

Veteran midfielder Jeff Larentowicz said Martino has been the foundation of the new franchise.

"He's the leader, he's the pillar in the middle," Laren-

towicz said Thursday.

"His message from Day 1 has been the same. When he speaks, we listen. That's really it. Without getting too technical, he's the boss. What he says goes, and we've all bought in."

Larentowicz said Martino won instant respect, even as a newcomer to the MLS, through his "knowledge of the game."

"His management and style is at times uncompromising but I think it's always best for the team," Larentowicz said. "His ability to sit down after having never coached in the MLS and to break down a team you've played against a million times, and he tells you something you've never seen before." □

Stephen Curry scores 42 points, Warriors rout Cavs

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Stephen Curry made nine 3-pointers and scored 42 points, Kevin Durant added 25 and the Golden State Warriors came back to face a very different looking Cleveland team for the first time since winning another NBA title, and beat the Cavaliers 129-105 on Wednesday night. Curry scored nine points in less than a minute midway through the fourth quarter to help the Warriors pull away for their eighth straight over their former Finals rivals. Curry added nine rebounds, seven assists and appears completely healed after missing 11 games with a strained groin. Durant had 10 rebounds and nine assists.

It was Golden State's first visit to Cleveland since June, when the Warriors completed a sweep to win their third championship in four years. Nothing looked the same. The Cavaliers lost LeBron James over the summer as a free agent and are starting from scratch after a four-year run as Eastern Conference champions. Cleveland also is playing without injured All-Star Kevin Love, forward J.R. Smith is on a forced hiatus and the team recently traded Kyle Korver.

Tristan Thompson, one of the only holdovers from those powerful Cleveland teams, had 19 rebounds and 14 points. Rookie Collin Sexton scored 20 points for Cleveland.

LAKERS 121, SPURS 113

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James scored 20 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter and Josh Hart hit two clutch 3-pointers in the final minutes as Los Angeles beat San Antonio for its fourth straight victory.

Kyle Kuzma had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who lost Brandon Ingram to a sprained left ankle in the first quarter. Los Angeles still beat the Spurs for the first time in three tries this season, but only after James dramatically took

control of another fourth quarter during his third 40-point game since joining the Lakers.

DeMar DeRozan scored 32 points and Rudy Gay had a season-high 31 before fouling out for the Spurs in the first of back-to-back games in three days to wrap up the season series between these longtime West rivals. They'll meet again in San Antonio on Friday night.

San Antonio held an eight-point lead in the fourth before James started a rally by scoring nine consecutive points.

James scored all 20 of his fourth-quarter points in the final 9½ minutes, going 7 of 8 from the field with three 3-pointers. He also had six assists and five rebounds. LaMarcus Aldridge had 21 points and nine rebounds for the Spurs.

THUNDER 114, NETS 112

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul George scored 25 of his 47 points in a sensational fourth quarter, including a go-ahead 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds left that lifted Oklahoma City past Brooklyn.

George rallied the Thunder from a 23-point deficit and finished a point shy of his career high, leading them to a fourth straight victory in a game they trailed big for much of the way.

Russell Westbrook had his 108th career triple-double to snap a tie with former Nets star and coach Jason Kidd for third in NBA history, finishing with 21 points, 17 assists and 15 rebounds.

Allen Crabbe scored 22 points and tied a season high with seven 3-pointers for New Jersey.

RAPTORS 113, 76ERS 102

TORONTO (AP) — Kawhi Leonard had 36 points, Jonas Valanciunas scored 18 of his season-high 26 in the fourth quarter and Toronto handed Philadelphia its 13th consecutive loss in Canada.

Serge Ibaka added 18 points to help the Raptors bounce back from a loss to Denver to win for the ninth

time in 10 games. Toronto is an NBA-best 21-5, and improved to 11-3 at home.

Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 38 points and had 10 rebounds for Philadelphia.

NUGGETS 124, MAGIC 118, OT

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Jamal Murray scored 31 points and Denver shut down Orlando in overtime for its seventh straight victory. After Terence Ross tied it for Orlando with a 3-pointer with 6.1 seconds left in the fourth quarter, the Nuggets outscored the Magic 9-2 until Nikola Vucevic dunked for the Magic's first field goal of the overtime session with just 1:04 left. □



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Paul George, left, goes up for a shot against Brooklyn Nets forward Rondae Hollis-Jefferson (24) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, in New York. The Thunder won 114-112.

Associated Press

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Ducks extend win streak to 5 with 4-2 win over Blackhawks

By The Associated Press
ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Ondrej Kase scored four minutes into the third period to lift the Anaheim Ducks over the Chicago Blackhawks 4-2 on Wednesday night for their fifth straight win. Anaheim matched Toronto for the longest active winning streak in the league. Brandon Montour and Daniel Sprong, who was making his Ducks debut, scored 20 seconds apart in the first period, and Jakob Silfverberg added an empty-net goal. John Gibson made 25 saves. Erik Gustafsson and Alex DeBrincat scored in the second period, and Corey Crawford stopped 28 shots for the Blackhawks, who have dropped five straight and seven of eight. The Ducks came into the game next-to-last in the NHL in first-period goals but scored a pair in the first 20 minutes for only the third time this season. Montour took a pass from Pontus Aberg near the blue line and fired a 54-foot wrist shot past a screened Crawford for his third of the sea-



Anaheim Ducks defenseman Brandon Montour celebrates his goal in the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Chicago Blackhawks in Anaheim, Calif., Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018.
Associated Press

son less than six minutes in. Sprong, who was acquired in a trade from Pittsburgh on Monday, then beat Crawford top shelf with a

shot at a sharp angle.

SHARKS 5, HURRICANES 1
SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Timo Meier had a goal and two assists in his return to

San Jose's lineup, Martin Jones made 39 saves and the Sharks bounced back from a rough road trip by beating Carolina. Barclay Goodrow and Tomas Hertl got San Jose started with goals in the first period, captain Joe Pavelski added his team-leading 18th in the second period and Marcus Sorensen scored in the third to give the Sharks a convincing victory.

Lucas Wallmark scored on the power play for the Hurricanes, who have scored just five goals in the past five games, losing four of them. Curtis McElhinney made 18 saves.

The Sharks had been outscored 20-7 in losing the first four games on their recent road trip before salvaging it a bit with a 3-1 win in Montreal. They built on that momentum against the Hurricanes with Kevin Labanc setting up two goals in the first 10:10 and Jones stopping 17 shots in the first.

OILERS 3, BLUES 2, SO

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Connor McDavid scored in the shootout after Oscar Klefbom tied it late in the third period, and Edmonton beat St. Louis.

Klefbom scored with 55.2 seconds remaining to tie the game at 2, and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and McDavid scored in the shootout. Nugent-Hopkins also scored in the second period, and Edmonton won for the fourth time in five games.

Cam Talbot made 28 saves, plus two more in the shootout to win for the first time in seven tries dating to Oct. 28.

Ivan Barbashev and Brayden Schenn scored for the Blues, who lost for the fourth time in their last five games. Jake Allen made 34 saves. □

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Senators acquire D Elliott in trade with Penguins

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — The Ottawa Senators have acquired defenseman Stefan Elliott and forward Tobias Lindberg in a trade with the Pittsburgh Penguins for defenseman Macoy Erkamps and forward Ben Sexton. The swap of minor leaguers was announced on Wednesday. Elliott and Lindberg will re-

port to the American Hockey League's Belleville Senators. Sexton and Erkamps have been assigned to the AHL's Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

The 27-year-old Elliott has eight goals and 16 assists in 84 NHL games with Colorado, Arizona and Nashville. He last appeared in the NHL in April 2016 with the Predators. □



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Seattle moves into next phase after NHL expansion approval

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

SEA ISLAND, Ga. (AP) — Seattle's NHL expansion team has its roots in Dave Tippett's computer.

That's where the longtime coach-turned-senior adviser keeps a running list of players around the league who might be available in an expansion draft that is still 2½ years off. It is just an exercise for now but will become a key building block when Seattle picks its first players in June 2021.

"Every year it'll change a little bit," Tippett said. "By the time it gets here, you'll have a pretty good idea of where you think teams are going to fall."

Long months are ahead before the as-yet-unnamed team plays its first game, but work is already underway and the effort can begin in earnest now that the NHL Board of Governors has officially awarded Seattle a franchise. Groundbreaking on a total overhaul of KeyArena is Wednesday, and Seattle's front office will spend the rest of this season plotting the course for an organization that has a tough act to follow after the Vegas Golden Knights reached the Stanley Cup Final in their inaugural season.

"Part of the DNA of this ownership group is we're extremely competitive," said Tod Leiweke, a minority partner, president and CEO of Seattle Hockey Partners. "We're here to win. And we want to win. So we're going to look at these timelines and how it can be put to our advantage."

That means Tippett will watch the rest of this season with an eye on the new team's future and he will sketch out the beginnings of a hockey operations department. He will likely



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, center left, holds a jersey after the NHL Board of Governors announced Seattle as the league's 32nd franchise, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018, in Sea Island Ga.. Joining Bettman, from left to right, is Jerry Bruckheimer, David Bonderman, David Wright, Tod Leiweke and Washington Wild youth hockey player Jaina Goscinski.

Associated Press

be senior vice president of hockey operations and have a big say in choosing the first general manager of the league's 32nd team. Tippett will likely hire some scouts this summer and move forward on the GM search.

"When you're a year or two out, everything continues to evolve," Tippett said. "You continue to monitor things. It's an ever-changing world out there right now in the hockey world between coaches and GMs."

Veteran Detroit Red Wings GM Ken Holland is considered a potential candidate, and Vegas assistant Kelly McCrimmon would know the recipe

for a successful expansion draft after helping George McPhee put the Golden Knights together. The same rules will be in place that allow teams to protect only seven forwards, three defensemen and a goaltender, or eight skaters at any position and a goaltender. That means that for \$850 million, Seattle will have an opportunity to win right away. "It gives you an excitement that you can have a team that's not your expansion teams of the past with the NHL rules," Tippett said. "You can have a competitive team like Vegas. Nobody expected that from them. But it's not as if you're in a five-year

rebuild or five-year starting point. You actually can get some good players because of the rules."

Leiweke is friends with McPhee and Golden Knights president Kerry Bubolz and said his new team will build "brick by brick" like Vegas did. First, there are real bricks. Majority owner David Bonderman said the immediate focus is on getting arena renovations and three-rink practice facility construction completed. Leiweke expects the 17,000-seat downtown arena to open in March or April 2021 and host the expansion draft.

Tippett has a hand in all those projects and is also

working to settle Seattle's American Hockey League affiliate.

And he and the ownership group will, at some point, go on a hiring spree to try to replicate Vegas' success. "We have momentum, and this is a business of recruitment," Leiweke said. "We now really feel confident that we'll be able to recruit a top-flight staff. And we need to, because this is the most competitive league in the world, and parity is the trademark of the National Hockey League today. So we're going to have to be really, really good at recruiting, but our owners are going to give us everything we need." □

Oklahoma QB Kyler Murray is named the AP Player of the Year

By **ERIC OLSON**

AP College Football Writer

Kyler Murray is The Associated Press college football Player of the Year, the second straight Oklahoma quarterback and fifth overall to win the award since it was established in 1998.

Murray beat out Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa on 56 ballots submitted by AP college football poll voters and announced Thursday.

Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins Jr. was third.

"It's humbling and an honor to be named AP Player of the Year, to be mentioned in the same realm as a lot of great players, a lot of hall of famers," Murray said. "It's a special deal for me and hopefully I can continue to make my family and teammates proud."

Murray received 39 first-place votes and a total of 145 points.

Tagovailoa received 13 first-place votes (117 points) and Haskins was listed first on four ballots (55 points).

All three are finalists for the Heisman Trophy, which



In this Dec. 1, 2018, file photo, Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray hoists the Most Outstanding Player trophy after beating Texas 39-27 in the Big 12 Conference championship NCAA college football game, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

will be presented Saturday night in New York. Murray and Tagovailoa will face each other in the College Football Playoff, when No. 1 Alabama plays No. 4 Oklahoma at the Orange Bowl semifinal on Dec. 29. Murray joins Baker Mayfield (2017), Josh Heupel (2000), Jason White (2003) and Sam Bradford (2008) as previous winners from Oklahoma. No other school has had more than two players win AP Player of the Year. Murray, a 5-foot-10, 195-pound junior from Allen, Texas, won the award in his final year as a college athlete.

The Oakland Athletics took Murray with the ninth pick in the Major League Baseball draft in June. Murray, who batted .296 with 10 home runs and 13 doubles in 50 games as the Sooners' center fielder, signed for nearly \$5 million, with the A's agreeing to let him return to school and play football this season.

Murray was Mayfield's backup last season and won the starter's job in pre-season practice. He went

on to become one of three 4,000-yard passers in the nation and threw for 40 touchdowns. He also has rushed for 892 yards and 11 TDs.

Murray leads the country in total offense (4,945 yards), points responsible for (306) and passing efficiency (205.7).

Murray started his career at Texas A&M, where his father, Kevin Murray, set season and career passing records as the Aggies' quarterback in the mid-1980s. Kyler Murray transferred to Oklahoma after his freshman season, sat out a season per transfer rules and then backed up Mayfield.

"It's been a long journey with a lot of waiting, but I think it's all been worth it," Murray said. "All the hard work with my teammates has really paid off."

Murray also is a finalist for the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top quarterback and Maxwell Award as the best player. Those awards and others will be presented Thursday night at ESPN's college football awards show in Atlanta. □

AP sources: Corbin, Nats agree on \$140M, 6-year contract

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Add Patrick Corbin to the All-Star starting staff the Washington Nationals have assembled.

A person familiar with the deal said the left-handed Corbin has agreed to a six-year contract with the Nationals, pending a physical exam. Another person familiar with the terms said the contract is for \$140 million.

The people confirmed the details of the agreement to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday because nothing had been announced by the team.

Corbin's contract would include \$10 million in deferred money, one of the people said.

Corbin, who has played his entire major league career for the Arizona Dia-

mondbacks, joins a rotation in Washington that already includes three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg. Corbin was an NL All-Star selection in 2013 and this year; Scherzer has been picked for each of the past six Midsummer Classics; Strasburg has made it three times.

The 29-year-old Corbin is coming off his best season in the majors, going 11-7 with a 3.15 ERA while pitching 200 innings for the second time in his career.

He finished fifth in voting for NL Cy Young honors; Scherzer was second as he came up just shy of a third consecutive prize.

Corbin was considered the top starter available in an elite free-agent class and became the first player among them to sign a big money, multiyear deal this offseason. Still on the mar-

ket is right fielder Bryce Harper, the 2012 NL Rookie of the Year and 2015 NL MVP for the Nationals. Washington made a late-season offer to Harper in a bid to keep him, but that was not accepted.

Corbin recently made the rounds of free-agent suitors, including meeting with Nationals owner Mark Lerner and general manager Mike Rizzo.

The signing of Corbin — who had drawn interest from the New York Yankees and Philadelphia Phillies, among other clubs, and was expected to draw offers of at least \$20 million a year — could be a signal that the Nationals are moving on from Harper.

After going 82-80 and failing to make the playoffs after two NL East titles in a row, Washington has been busy this offseason.

In addition to the agree-



In this Sept. 22, 2018 file photo Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Patrick Corbin throws in the first inning during a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies in Phoenix.

Associated Press

ment with Corbin, the Nationals already have added two catchers — Yan Gomes via trade, Kurt Suzuki in free agency — and two back-end-of-the-bullpen relievers — Kyle Barraclough via trade, Trevor Rosenthal in free agency. Because Corbin declined a \$17.9 million qualifying offer

by Arizona and the Nationals will pay luxury tax this year, Washington would forfeit its second- and fifth-highest picks in next June's amateur draft and lose \$1 million in international signing bonus allocation for 2019-20. Arizona would gain an extra pick after the first round as compensation. □



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In this Feb. 26, 2014, file photo, the USA Gymnastics logo is displayed at AT&T Stadium during an news conference announcing in Arlington, Texas. USA Gymnastics has filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, as it attempts to reach settlements in the dozens of sex-abuse lawsuits it faces and to forestall its potential demise at the hands of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Associated Press

USA GYMNASTICS

Continued from Page 17

Carson said the insurance companies "are aware we're taking this action and our expectation is they will come to the table and pay on our coverage."

Carson added: "This is not a liquidation. This is a reorganization."

John Manly, an attorney representing dozens of women who have pending lawsuits against USA Gymnastics, chastised the organization for continuing to "inflict unimaginable pain on survivors" and encouraged law enforcement officials to "redouble" their investigative efforts.

"Today's bankruptcy filing by USA Gymnastics was the inevitable result of the inability of this organization to meet its core responsibility of protecting its athlete members from abuse," Manly said in a statement. "The leadership of USA Gymnastics has proven itself to be both morally and financially bankrupt."

USA Gymnastics insists that's

not the case, stressing that the filing is based on legal expediency, not fiscal distress.

While Carson acknowledged that sponsorship is down since the first women came forward against Nassar in the fall of 2016, she described the financial condition of USA Gymnastics as "stable."

USA Gymnastics reported assets in a range of \$50 million to \$100 million and a similar range of liabilities, with 1,000 to 5,000 creditors. The organization said its largest unsecured creditor is former president and CEO Steve Penny, who is owed \$339,999.96. USA Gymnastics is disputing Penny's claim, though attorney Cathy Steege declined to get into the specific nature of the dispute. Penny resigned under pressure from the USOC in March 2017. Two other presidents — Kerry Perry and former U.S. Rep. Mary Bono — have followed in what has become a revolving door amid the organi-

zation's hierarchy.

It's that chaos at the top that led the USOC to initiate the process of removing USA Gymnastics as the sport's national governing body at the Olympic level — a step that's taken only under the most extreme circumstances.

In an open letter to the gymnastics community in November, USOC CEO Sarah Hirshland said "you deserve better," and that the challenges facing USA Gymnastics were more than it was capable of overcoming as currently constructed.

Carson said the legal maneuvering Wednesday delays the USOC's efforts to strip its designation as a national governing body.

"We always have a dialogue going with them and intend to make it clear with them we have a lot to talk about and we want to keep that going," she said. USOC spokesman Patrick Sandusky said the committee is reviewing the filing's potential effect on decertification. "Financial stability and viability are essential for a national governing body to operate in the best interests of the athletes," Sandusky said.

USA Gymnastics believes bankruptcy protects it from having opportunities or assets taken away by a debtor. Carson acknowledged that being a national governing body "is a big part of how we raise our revenue." Carson, who replaced Karen Golz as chairwoman last week, said she accepted the position because she believes in the direction of USA Gymnastics, which she said doesn't need money but rather time. □



In this March 15, 2016, file photo, Dallas Seavey poses with his lead dogs Reef, left, and Tide after finishing the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Nome, Alaska.

Associated Press

Iditarod clears four-time champion in dog-doping scandal

ANCHORAGE, Alaska

(AP) — Iditarod officials have cleared a four-time champion of any wrongdoing in a dog-doping scandal that followed the sled dog race last year. Officials for the 1,000-mile (1,610 kilometer) Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race issued a statement this week absolving musher Dallas Seavey of any involvement in the drugging of his dogs, the Anchorage Daily News reported.

Four of Seavey's dogs tested positive for tramadol, an opioid painkiller and banned substance, following his second-place finish in March 2017. Some Alaska veterinarians have questioned why anyone would administer the drug during the race because it may cause drowsiness. Jeanne Olson, an Alaska veterinarian who treats

sled dogs, sees no benefit in administering tramadol during a race because it causes drowsiness. Olson, who was the head veterinarian in the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race in the 1990s, prescribes it mostly for profound pain relief.

"But I also caution that the dogs are going to become sedated from it," she said.

"So when I first heard ... that it was tramadol as the drug, I thought, 'Well, that's surprising. Why would anybody use that?'"

"We met with him multiple times and there was (sufficient) evidence to conclude he didn't have anything to do with it," said Mike Mills, president of Iditarod's board of directors. Mills declined to say what that evidence was. □

Documents show Facebook used user data as competitive weapon

By **DANICA KIRKA, FRANK BAJAK and BARBARA ORTUTAY**

Associated Press

Internal Facebook documents released by a U.K. parliamentary committee offer the clearest evidence yet that the social network has used its enormous trove of user data as a competitive weapon, often in ways designed to keep its users in the dark.

Parliament's media committee accused Facebook on Wednesday of cutting special deals with some app developers to give them more access to data, while icing out others that it viewed as potential rivals.

In other documents, company executives discussed how they were keeping the company's collection and exploitation of user data from its users. That included quietly collecting the call records and text messages of users of phones that run on Google's Android operating system without asking their permission.

The U.K. committee released more than 200 pages of documents on the tech giant's internal discussions about the value of users' personal information. While they mostly cover the period between 2012 and 2015 — the first three years after Facebook went public — they offer a rare glimpse into the company's inner workings and the extent to which it used people's data to make money while publicly vowing to protect their privacy.

The company's critics said the new revelations reinforced their concerns over what users actually know about how Facebook treats their data.

"These kinds of schemes are exactly why companies must be required to disclose exactly how they are collecting and sharing our data, with stiff penalties for companies that lie about it," Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said in a statement.

Facebook called the documents misleading and said the information they contain is "only part of the story."



In this May 1, 2018, file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg makes the keynote speech at F8, Facebook's developer conference in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press

"Like any business, we had many internal conversations about the various ways we could build a sustainable business model for our platform," the company said in a statement. "But the facts are clear: We've never sold people's data." In a Facebook post, company CEO Mark Zuckerberg sought to put the documents in context. "Of course, we don't let everyone develop on our platform," he wrote. "We blocked a lot of sketchy apps. We also didn't allow developers to use our platform to replicate our functionality or grow their services virally in a way that creates little value for people on Facebook."

The U.K. committee seized the documents from app developer Six4Three, maker of a now-defunct bikini-picture search app. Six4Three acquired the files as part of a U.S. lawsuit that accuses Facebook of deceptive, anti-competitive business practices. The documents remain under court seal in the U.S.

In a summary of key issues pertaining to the documents, the committee said Facebook "whitelisted," or made exceptions for companies such as Airbnb and Netflix, that gave them continued access to users'

"friends" even after the tech giant announced changes in 2015 to end the practice. "Facebook have clearly entered into whitelisting agreements with certain companies, which meant that after the platform changes in 2014/15 they maintained full access to friends data," the committee said in a statement. "It is not clear that there was any user consent for this, nor how Facebook decided which companies should be whitelisted or not."

The documents "raise important questions about how Facebook treats users' data, their policies for working with app developers, and how they exercise their dominant position in the social media market," said committee chair Damian Collins. "We don't feel we have had straight answers from Facebook on these important issues, which is why we are releasing the documents."

The cache includes emails from Zuckerberg and other key members of his staff. The emails show Zuckerberg and other executives scheming to leverage user data to favor companies not considered to be threats and to identify potential acquisitions.

Collins said the emails raise

important issues, particularly around the use of the data of Facebook users. "The idea of linking access to friends' data to the financial value of the developers' relationship with Facebook is a recurring feature of the documents," Collins said.

The committee's summary said Facebook collected data about the mobile apps its users favored to help it decide which companies to acquire. It also said Facebook knew that an update to its Android mobile app phone system — which allowed the Facebook app to Hoover up user call logs and text messages — would be controversial. "To mitigate any bad PR, Facebook planned to make it as hard as possible for users to know that this was one of the underlying features of the upgrade of their app," the summary said.

In a post Wednesday, Facebook continued to stand by its stance that the feature was "is opt in for users and we ask for people's permission before enabling."

The Android data collection practice was unearthed in April as the Cambridge Analytica scandal roiled Facebook. The data mining firm, employed by the

2016 Trump campaign, exploited lax Facebook data-sharing policies to obtain data on millions of users without their consent.

Facebook executives clearly understand the material is valuable. An unsigned memo setting policy for a system upgrade known as "Platform 3.0" laid out a case for shutting out any app developer who could be construed as a competitor.

"There are a small number of developers whom no amount of sharing to FB or monetary value can justify giving them access to Platform," the memo said. "These developers do not want to participate in the ecosystem we have created, but rather build their own ecosystem at the expense of our users, other developers and, of course, us. That is something that we will not allow."

The documents also suggest Facebook would jealously safeguard its interests. In a January 2013 email exchange, Zuckerberg signed off on cutting access to Twitter's Vine video-producing app, which had allowed users to find their friends on Vine by pulling in data from Facebook.

"Unless anyone raises objections," Facebook Vice President Justin Osofsky wrote, the company would cut Vine's access to users' friend networks. "We're prepared reactive PR."

"Yup, go for it," Zuckerberg replied.

The documents also suggest robust internal discussions about linking data to revenue.

"There's a big question on where we get the revenue from," Zuckerberg said in one email. "Do we make it easy for (developers) to use our payments/ad network but not require them? Do we require them? Do we just charge a (revenue) share directly and let (developers) who use them get a credit against what they owe us? It's not at all clear to me here that we have a model that will actually make us the revenue we want at scale." □

Stocks plunge again as Huawei arrest renews China tensions

By ALEX VEIGA
Associated Press

U.S. stocks tumbled again Thursday, knocking 600 points off the Dow Jones Industrial Average and putting the benchmark S&P 500 on track for its worst week since March.

The broad market decline came as the arrest of a senior Chinese technology executive overshadowed some positive comments on trade from Beijing and threatened to worsen trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

The lingering trade dispute has deepened investors' worries that the prospects for global economic and corporate earnings growth could be dimming.

Traders continued to shovel money into bonds, a signal that they see weakness in the economy ahead. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.85 percent from 2.92 percent on Tuesday, a large move.

U.S. stock and bond trading were closed Wednesday because of a national day of mourning for President George H.W. Bush.



Trader Tommy Kalikas works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

"The market seems right now to be focused on increased risks for a 2020 recession," said Patrick Schaffer, Global Investment Specialist, J.P. Morgan Private Bank. "It's a very hard market to buy when you see really strong signals that we are indeed late (in

the economic) cycle." Oil prices fell sharply as traders appeared to doubt that an expected production cut by OPEC will be enough to boost the price of crude.

Technology companies, banks and health care stocks took some of the

heaviest losses in the latest wave of selling. Oracle slid 4.3 percent to \$46.64. Citigroup fell 4.8 percent to \$59.25. Centene sank 7.3 percent to \$131.80. The S&P 500 index slid 61 points, or 2.3 percent, to 2,638 as of 11:47 a.m. Eastern Time. The Dow dropped

626 points, or 2.5 percent, to 24,400. The average briefly slumped as much as 784 points. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite lost 119 points, or 1.7 percent, to 7,039.

The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks gave up 35 points, or 2.4 percent, to 1,445.

The latest losses put the S&P 500 and the Dow back into the red for the year. The Nasdaq was still slightly higher for 2018.

Major indexes overseas also fell sharply. The DAX in Germany dropped 3.9 percent, while France's CAC 40 lost 3.7 percent. The FTSE 100 in Britain declined 3.6 percent.

Canadian authorities arrested the chief financial officer of China's Huawei Technologies on Wednesday for possible extradition to the U.S.

Meng is a prominent member of Chinese society as deputy chairman of the board and the daughter of company founder Ren Zhengfei. China has demanded Meng's immediate release. □

Associated Press

Survey: US businesses added a solid 179,000 jobs last month

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. businesses hired new workers at a solid pace in November, adding 179,000 jobs, according to a private survey.

The report comes as other data also suggest the U.S. economy remains healthy, even as the financial markets have gyrated over concerns about a trade conflict with China and slowing global growth.

Payroll processor ADP said Thursday that last month's job gains slowed from October's strong showing of 225,000. Still, November's hiring is enough to lower the unemployment rate over time. Job gains were strong in health care, which added 37,000 jobs, and in hotels and restaurants, which gained 26,000. Professional and technical services, which include high-paying jobs such as

accountants and engineers, added 25,000. Construction gained 10,000 positions while manufacturing added just 4,000.

The report Thursday arrives a day before the government releases its official jobs numbers. Economists forecast that they will show employers added 195,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate will remain at a five-decade low of 3.7 percent, according to data provider FactSet.

The ADP numbers frequently diverge from the government's figures.

Ahu Yildirmaz, vice president of the ADP Research Institute, said that most of the job growth occurred among mid-sized businesses, with 50 to 499 employees. Those firms are typically large enough to offer the pay and benefits necessary to attract workers when the unemployment rate is so low. At the same time, they

are not as exposed to the burgeoning trade war between the U.S. and China as larger firms are.

Other recent data points to a healthy economy, despite turbulence in the financial markets. Growth has reached a 3.8 percent annual rate in the past six months, the best such showing in four years. That's encouraging more companies to hire. Firms have added a robust total of more than 200,000 jobs a month this year, on average, and job openings are near a record high. □



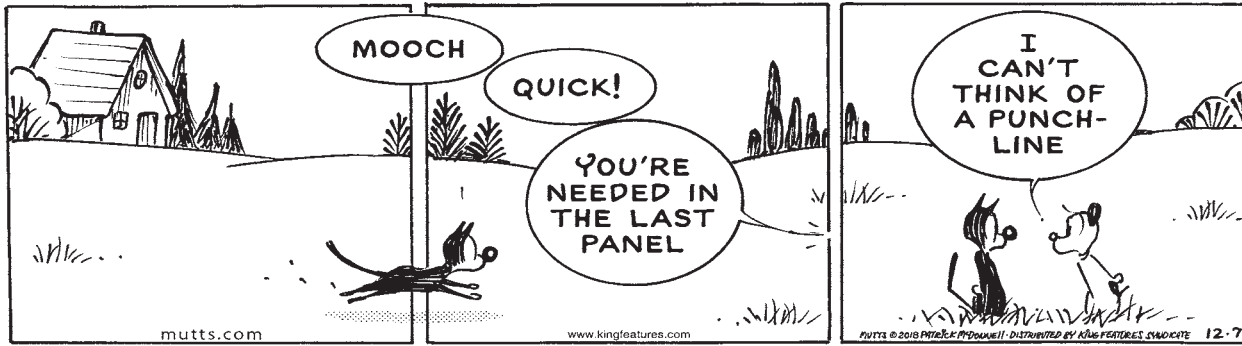
In this June 21, 2018 file photo, job applicants talk with representatives from Aldi at a job fair hosted by Job News South Florida, in Sunrise, Fla.

Associated Press

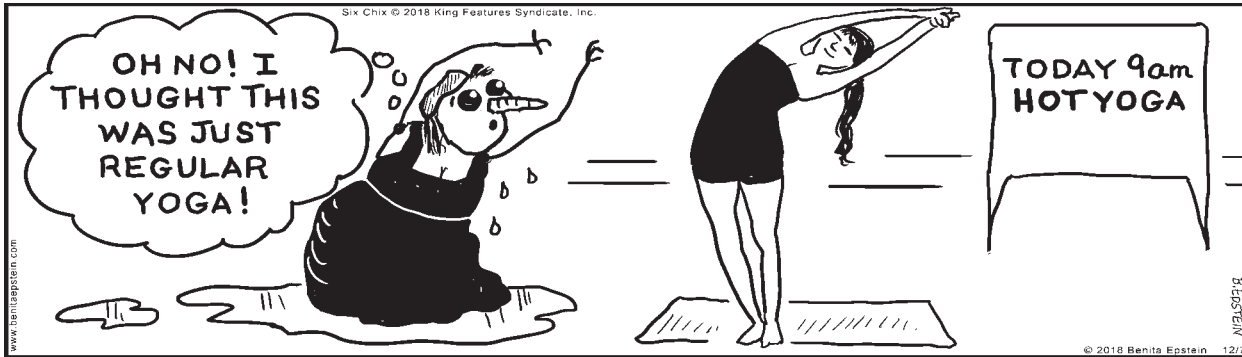
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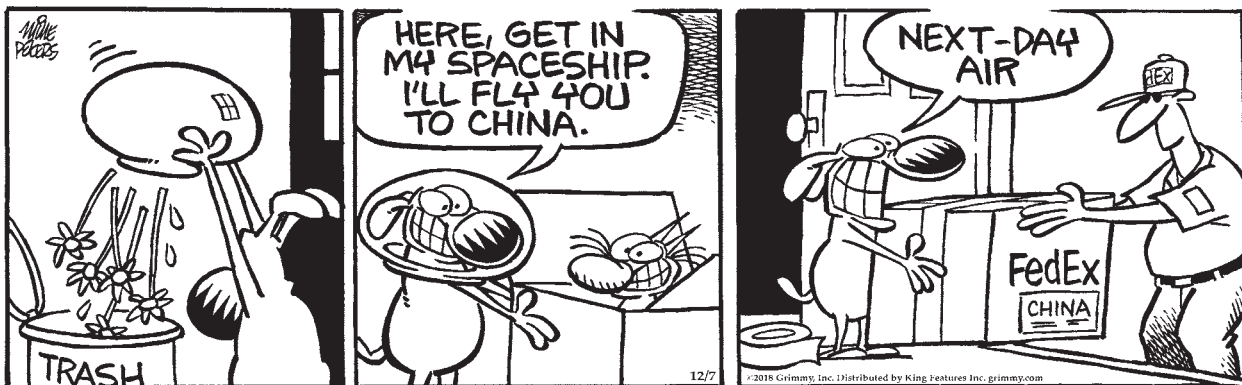
6 Chix



Blondie



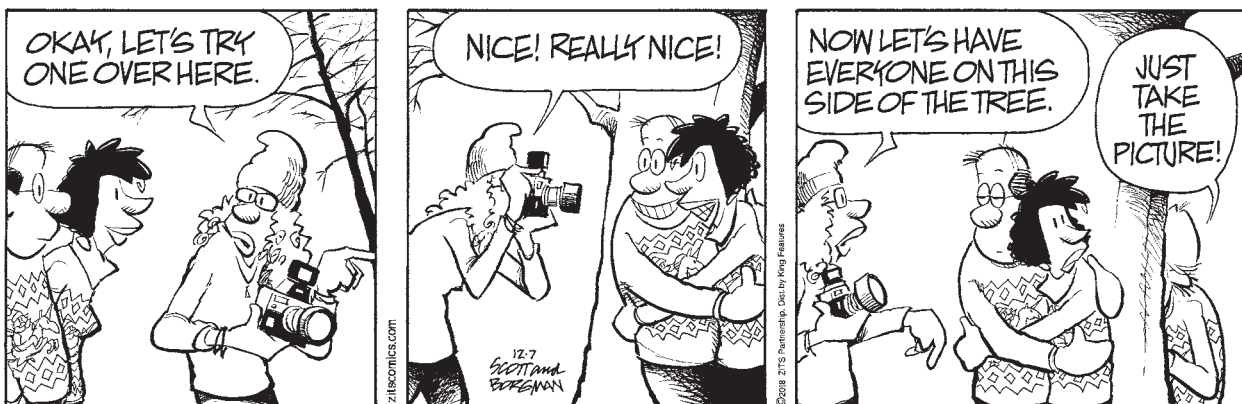
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

5	4				8	6	
1			9			5	
			3	8			
	3		1				
6	7				3	9	
			8		1		
		4	5				
3			7			8	
7	1				2	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/07

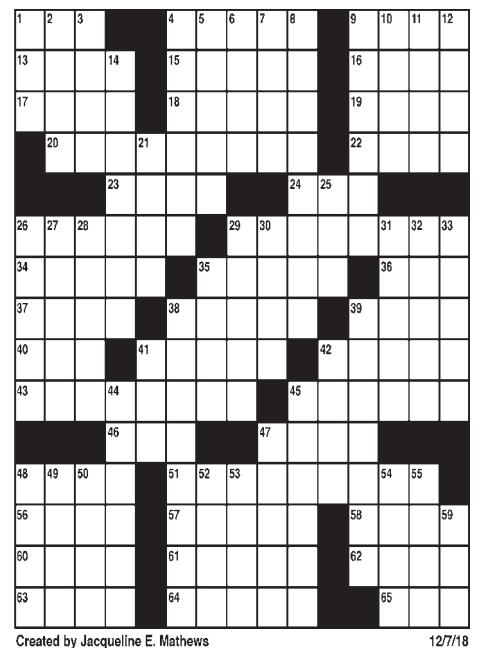
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	5	4	6	3	9	8	7	2
6	8	7	1	5	2	3	4	9
3	9	2	4	7	8	6	5	1
7	4	1	2	8	3	5	9	6
9	2	5	7	6	4	1	8	3
8	3	6	5	9	1	7	2	4
2	7	8	3	4	6	9	1	5
4	6	9	8	1	5	2	3	7
5	1	3	9	2	7	4	6	8

- ACROSS**
- Present topper
 - "...No, it isn't very pretty what ___ without pity can do"
 - Foot part
 - Forbids entry to
 - Shakespearean lover
 - ___ smoothies; healthy shakes
 - Study all night
 - '60s dance craze
 - Eiffel Tower's composition
 - Accompaniment for meatballs
 - Pharmacy orders, for short
 - Unpleasant
 - White lie
 - Portion of bacon
 - Ideal examples
 - Firepit residue
 - Airline prices
 - Inventor Whitney
 - Unfair slant
 - Became furious
 - Trot or canter
 - ___mouth; speak ill of
 - Toast topper
 - ___ Barbara, CA
 - Like ornamental fruit
 - Bug
 - Not long ___; recently
 - Mouse's downfall
 - Reach across
 - Steadfast; tried-and-true
 - Crushes violently
 - ___ without saying; is obvious
 - "___ a Wonderful Life"
 - Synagogue leader
 - Thai or Chinese
 - Window covering
 - Bird with a large hooked beak
 - Hunted animal
 - Stringed instrument
 - Leaf-dropping season

- DOWN**
- British TV channel
 - "He doesn't have both ___ in the water"
 - Envelop
 - Godfrey or Ashe
 - Pisa attraction
 - Leave out
 - Word before Indies or Virginia
 - Informed
 - With hands on hips
 - Unusual
 - Clumsy fellow
 - Cluckers
 - Crushes violently
 - ___ without saying; is obvious
 - "___ a Wonderful Life"
 - Synagogue leader
 - Thai or Chinese
 - Window covering
 - Bird with a large hooked beak
 - Hunted animal
 - Stringed instrument
 - Leaf-dropping season



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/7/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

ROPE	DAMON	PREP
ONES	ERICA	LUAU
ACTS	PANTY	WAIST
MET	HUGE	HINTS
IRATE	FAN	
PACIFY	CARSON	
ALOFT	SCARF	VET
SLAT	BLADE	BARE
SIT	CREWS	SALVE
ESCHEW	ANNOYS	
LAW	BRIEF	
ABHOR	WEEP	FRO
BEAUTICIAN	PIED	
LAND	TERRA	ICED
EDGY	SEEDS	TEDS

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12/7/18

- Pierce
- One of the Three Bears
- Early boatbuilder
- Blaze
- Within reach
- Yakety-yaks
- Teacher's favorite

Splits deepen as UN climate talks near crunch time

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) —

Divisions deepened at the U.N. climate talks Thursday, pitting rich nations against poor ones, oil exporters against vulnerable island nations, and those governments prepared to act on global warming against those who want to wait and see.

The stakes were raised by a scientific report that warned achieving the most ambitious target in the 2015 Paris climate accord to limit emissions is getting increasingly difficult. Fresh figures released this week showed that emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide jumped the highest in seven years, making the task of cutting those emissions one day to zero even more challenging.

Negotiators at the climate talks in Katowice, Poland, still disagree on the way forward but have just a few days to finish their technical talks before ministers take over.

"It's going to be a big challenge," said Amjad Abdulla, the chief negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States. "We are going to forward the sticky issues to next week."

Among the splits that need to be overcome before the conference ends on Dec. 14 are:

— The question of what kind of flexibility developing countries will have when it comes to reporting their emissions and efforts to curb them.

The issue is central to the Paris rulebook, which countries have committed to finalizing this year. Environmental activists insist that countries such as Brazil, with its vast Amazon rainforest, and China, the world's biggest polluter, should have to provide hard data on emissions and not be treated like poorer nations who don't have the ability to do a precise greenhouse tally. Complicating matters, a group of rich countries that includes the United States and Australia is seeking sim-



Partially covered by fog heating plant is seen in Minsk, Belarus, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018.

Associated Press

ilar leeway as developing nations.

— Several oil exporting countries have objected to the idea of explicitly mentioning ways in which global warming can be kept at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body made up of scientists from around the world, recently proposed "policy pathways" that would achieve this goal, which foresee phasing out almost all use of coal, oil and gas by 2050. But Saudi Arabia and some of its allies say it would be wrong to cite those pathways in a text about future ambitions.

— Developing countries are frustrated that rich nations won't commit themselves to providing greater assurances on financial support for poor nations facing hefty costs to fight the effects of climate change. European governments argue that they are bound by budget rules that limit their ability to allocate money more than a few years in advance.

What's clear is that few countries are moving in the right direction to halt global warming.

"The first data for this year point to a strong rise in the global CO2 emissions, almost all countries are contributing to this rise," said Corinne Le Quere, who led the team that published the emissions study this week.

"In China, it's boosted by economic stimulation in

construction. In the U.S., an unusual year, cold winter and hot summer, both boosting the energy demand. In Europe, the emissions are down but less than they used to be, and that's because of growing emissions in transport that are offsetting benefits elsewhere," she told the meeting in Katowice.

Le Quere, the director of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of East Anglia in England, noted some positive news.

"We have renewable energy," she said. "It is displacing coal in the U.S. and in Europe, and it is expanding elsewhere."

"It's not enough to meet the growing energy demand in developing countries in particular," she said. "But the industry is growing." □

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Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Climate reality check: Global carbon pollution up in 2018

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After several years of little growth, global emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide experienced their largest jump in seven years, discouraging scientists.

World carbon dioxide emissions are estimated to have risen 2.7 percent from 2017 to 2018, according to three studies released Wednesday from the Global Carbon Project, an international scientific collaboration of academics, governments and industry that tracks greenhouse gas emissions. The calculations, announced during negotiations to put the 2015 Paris climate accord into effect, puts some of the landmark agreement's goals nearly out of reach, scientists said. "This is terrible news," said Andrew Jones, co-director of Climate Interactive, which models greenhouse gas emissions and temperatures but was not part of the research. "Every year that we delay serious climate action, the Paris goals become more difficult to meet."

The studies concluded that this year the world would spew 40.9 billion tons (37.1 billion metric tons) of carbon dioxide, up from 39.8 billion tons (36.2 billion metric tons) last year. The margin of error is about one percentage point on either side.

The Global Carbon Project



In this Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018 file photo, plumes of smoke rise from Europe's largest lignite power plant in Belchatow, central Poland.

uses government and industry reports to come up with final emission figures for 2017 and projections for 2018 based on the four biggest polluters: China, the United States, India and the European Union.

The U.S., which had been steadily decreasing its carbon pollution, showed a significant rise in emissions — up 2.5 percent — for the first time since 2013. China, the globe's biggest carbon emitter, saw its largest increase since 2011: 4.6 percent.

Study lead author Corinne Le Quere, a climate

change researcher at the University of East Anglia in England, said the increase is a surprising "reality check" after a few years of smaller emission increases. But she also doesn't think the world will return to the even larger increases seen from 2003 to 2008. She believes unusual factors are at play this year. For the U.S., it was a combination of a hot summer and cold winter that required more electricity use for heating and cooling. For China, it was an economic stimulus that pushed coal-powered manufacturing, Le Quere said.

John Reilly, co-director of MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, said the results aren't too surprising because fossil fuels still account for 81 percent of the world's energy use. The burning of coal, oil and gas release carbon dioxide, which warms the Earth. Reilly, who wasn't part of the study, praised it as impressive.

Global Carbon Project chairman Rob Jackson, a Stanford University climate scientist, said he was discouraged.

The Paris accord set two

goals. The long-held goal would limit global warming to no more than 1.8 degrees (1 degree Celsius) from now, with a more ambitious goal of limiting warming to 0.9 degrees (0.5 degrees Celsius) from now.

The trend is such that the world would have to be lucky to keep warming to 1.8 degrees, let alone the lower goal, Le Quere said. China increased its emissions to 11.4 billion tons (10.3 billion metric tons), while the U.S. jumped to a shade under 6 billion tons (5.4 metric tons). The European Union spewed 3.9 billion tons (3.5 billion metric tons) and India soared to 2.9 billion tons (2.6 billion metric tons). Overall, the world is spewing about 1,300 tons (1,175 metric tons) of carbon dioxide into the air every second.

Use of coal — the biggest carbon emitter — is rising. And while countries are using more renewable fuels and trying to reduce carbon from electricity production, emissions from cars and planes are steadily increasing, Le Quere said. Global carbon dioxide emissions have increased 55 percent in the last 20 years, the calculations show. At the same time, Earth has warmed on average about two-thirds of a degree (0.38 degrees Celsius), according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. □

Scientists: Capacity at U.S. nuclear waste dump a challenge

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— The lack of space at the federal government's only underground nuclear waste repository is among several challenges identified Friday by a group of

scientists and other experts who are looking at the viability of disposing tons of weapons-grade plutonium at the desert location.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and

Medicine released a preliminary report on the U.S. government's plan, which calls for diluting 34 metric tons of plutonium and shipping it to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southern New Mexico.

The purpose of the work would be to satisfy a non-proliferation agreement with Russia.

Another challenge, the scientists say, would be getting officials in that country to approve of the dilution of the materials.

The pact between the two countries was initially based

on a proposal for turning the surplus plutonium into fuel that could be used for commercial nuclear reactors. That project, beset by years of delays and cost overruns, was cancelled earlier this year. The review of the plan that calls for shipping the plutonium to New Mexico was requested by Congress. A final report from the National Academies is expected next summer.

The U.S. Energy Department's Office of Environmental Management has demonstrated that diluting

the plutonium is possible by working with a separate batch of material. However, citing a lack of information, the scientists did not study the agency's ability to scale up that process to handle the 34 metric tons that are part of the nonproliferation agreement.

If the plan were to be approved, the Energy Department has estimated that it would take 31 years to dilute and dispose of all 34 metric tons. the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. □



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Viola Davis says 'stop taming us' at Hollywood event

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actress and producer Viola Davis gave a rousing speech about leadership and authenticity to a well-heeled crowd of Hollywood power players Wednesday morning at The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment breakfast.

Davis, who was being honored with the Sherry Lansing Leadership Award, said that she doesn't always come to mind when she thinks of the idea of leadership — Martin Luther King, Jr. does — but that she is trying through her production company to embrace women of color as they really are.

"There is no limit to how we see narratives with people of color," Davis said to a rapt crowd that included Mandy Moore, Lupita Nyong'o, Awkwafina, Rita Wilson, "Roma" breakout Yalitza Aparicio and Kesha. "There is only so much I am going to cow tow to this business."

She said she and her husband Julius Tennon started JuVee Productions because she was tired of celebrating movies that didn't have "me in it."

"I don't mean me Viola," Davis said. "I mean me as a black woman."



Viola Davis arrives at The Hollywood Reporter's Women in Entertainment Breakfast at Milk Studios on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

She urged those in power in Hollywood to show more authentic black female characters. "My main message is 'stop taming us,' she said. "Everything that we are inside is what makes art in this world rich ... There is something to be said about being wild. Steve McQueen is wild. Barry Jenkins. Ryan Coogler.... These people who just dare. Who say you cannot silence me."

Even when there are black characters, she said,

they're reduced to being maternal, to being the savior, to being denied sexuality, to being there to, "Make that white character feel better."

"What is in my heart is I cannot lead with bull(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)," she said. "I cannot lead with lying. I cannot lead with the lying about what the road is out there."

Her company recently closed a first look feature production deal with Amazon Studios, where they will produce a film about pioneering politician Shirley Chisholm. Davis will star as the New York congresswoman.

Davis was in good company at the breakfast event, where comedian Hannah Gadsby chided "good men talking about bad men" and Monica Lewinsky talked about her "mistake" and learning how to survive and grow from it.

"We have each made a

mistake in our career that has come with consequences. And probably everyone in this room can agree, that among all of us here today, when it comes to the worst mistake or mistake with the worst consequences, I definitely win, hands down," Lewinsky said. "Get comfortable with the fact that at some point you will make a mistake in your career...And know, from the deepest part of you, that you can move on from it, you can grow from it, and you can survive it."

One person who owned up to a mistake was Lena Dunham, who came on stage with the mother of a woman who accused a "Girls" writer of sexual assault last November. Dunham at the time came out in support of the writer, who was her friend, and questioned the account of Aurora Perrineau. Since then Dunham has become friends with Aurora and her mother Brittany Perrineau.

"I denied her experience publicly. That will always be my greatest regret," Dunham said. "But with Brittany and Aurora's love, forgiveness and bravery it has become my greatest moment of evolution and education...I learned to listen." □

John McPhee is at his brilliant best in 'The Patch'

By ROB MERRILL

Associated Press

"The Patch" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), by John McPhee

Eighty-seven and 33. That's the age of John McPhee and the number of books he's written, counting his latest, "The Patch."

One could forgive McPhee if he spent all his time in a canoe with a fishing rod when not enjoying the company of his 10 grandchildren. But McPhee is a writer, arguably America's greatest nonfiction essayist ever, and if he can find a practical way to do it, one senses he'll pen something from his coffin.

If he does, count me as one of the millions who will

read it.

"The Patch" is a slim book divided in two. The first part is a collection of five essays he dubs "The Sporting Scene" — stories about fishing, football, golf, lacrosse and bears that all appeared over the years in The New Yorker. The second, which McPhee likens to an "album quilt" he fastidiously took the time to assemble from previously written work, consists of various fragments of things from over the years that haven't yet been bound up in a book.

The standout in part one is the title essay that first ran in 2010, which begins as a tribute to chain pickerel, the "lone ambush hunter"

that can "accelerate like a bullet" when prey swims past. By the end, this fish tale is really about fatherhood as McPhee's dad suffers a stroke in a Baltimore County hospital.

The second part, the "album quilt," features writing about everything from Oscar Hammerstein to McPhee's first drink when he was 10 years old. ("One thing it wasn't was unpleasant.") All are rich with detail and McPhee's direct style and trademark sense of humor. "He is predictably unpredictable," writes McPhee in a remembrance of the late tennis star Arthur Ashe. And in an ode to satirist Felicia Lamport, commenting on where

writers write: "Lamport tops them all with Elihu Linot, who always wrote on the backs of women, starting at the neck and working down. His editor eloped with a manuscript. There was no carbon."

McPhee's curiosity is legendary and evident throughout this volume. There's a two-page tribute to actress Sophia Loren ("Her hands are huge. Her forehead is low. Her mouth is too large. And, mamma mia, she is absolutely gorgeous."), a profile of Bill Wagner, the chief taster at Hershey's, empowered to "send ninety thousand pounds on its way to be eaten" and a laugh-out-loud list of Hollywood stars



This cover image released by Farrar, Straus and Giroux shows "The Patch," by John McPhee.

Associated Press

who have stage names ("Boris Karloff could not have frightened a soul as William Henry Pratt"). □

An unlikely meditation on family in 'Shoplifters'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

The idea of family as a simple, straightforward concept is challenged by the provocative but oddly touching "Shoplifters," the Palme d'Or winning film from Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda. Kore-eda puts his lens on a poor, multi-generational family, living on the seeming brink of homelessness in a tiny apartment somewhere in Tokyo. They sleep two and three to a mat and they're about to add yet another mouth to feed to their cramped settings. Shoplifting is a way of life for the Shibata clan, who we are introduced to in a rather exciting and realistic little heist in a local grocery store between father, Osamu (Lily Franky) and son, Shota (Kairi Jo). Osamu feigns actual shopping with a basket in hand, while the tiny and crafty Shota works his magic fingers and perfect timing to drop microwavable udon bowls into his backpack. This is dinner for the whole family, mom Nobuyo (Sakura Ando),



This image released by Magnolia Pictures shows a scene from "Shoplifters."

Associated Press

aunt Aki (Mayu Matsuoka), and grandmother, Hatsue (Kirin Kiki) included. Their rationale? No one owns the thing yet when it's in a store. And if it's not sending said store into bankruptcy, why not? And it ends up being a kind of bonding experience between father and son, in addition to making sure

they don't starve. On their way home, in the freezing cold, they spot a very young, and underfed girl who is outside without a jacket. Osamu gives her food and takes her back with them. They discover marks on her arm and figure that this must be abuse. Her name is Yuri (Miyu Sasaki) and everyone takes to her like a little injured bird.

Walking back to the structure where they found her, they overhear Yuri's parents in a heated argument that only makes it clearer that this is not a home that has any love in it and is certainly not a place to return to. "This is kidnapping," Nobuyo tells her husband Osamu. "No," he explains, "It's not, because we're not asking for ransom."

And, with that, this new, very tenuous chapter begins with Yuri as the newest Shibata family member. Shota has complicated feelings about this, feeling both protective of Yuri and also jealous that she's now part of this little shoplifting crew (in a great scene we see Yuri thinking fast and unplugging the tackle shop's metal detector, so Shota can run out with the merchandise). Suddenly shoplifting is not just something he and Osamu do, although you suspect that more is going on here when it's revealed that Shota refuses to call him dad for reasons we won't learn until later.

Things are getting more complicated, and this unstable situation becomes even shakier with every passing day. Yuri has been reported missing to the cops and is now a fixture on the local news. Osamu gets injured and can't even do his day labor job anymore. Shota is growing up. And Nobuyo's employment is uncertain as well. □

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 CREED 2 MICHAEL B. JORDAN SYLVESTER STALLONE SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES (PG-13) MON-FRI 6:50 SAT-SUN 2:05 6:50 CXC MON-SUN 3:50 6:35 9:20 (TIP) MON-THU 6:00 8:45 FRI 6:00 8:45 11:30 SAT 3:15 6:00 8:45 11:30 SUN 3:15 6:00 8:45	 Mary Queen of Scots MARGOT ROBBIE SAORSE RANAN MON-SUN 6:30 9:05 (TIP)
 ELLIOT THE LITTLEST REINDEER JOSH HUTCHERSON MORENA BACCARIN MON-FRI 4:30 SAT-SUN 2:30 4:30	 BACKTRACE SYLVESTER STALLONE RYAN GUZMAN MON-SUN 4:45 (TIP)
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Eric Bana brings 'Dirty John' to TV with Connie Britton



This image released by Bravo shows Eric Bana as John Meehan, left, and Connie Britton as Debra Newell in a scene from "Dirty John," a series derived from the popular true crime podcast of the same name.

Associated Press

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Eric Bana is bringing the popular true crime podcast "Dirty John" to TV with a weekly series on Bravo.

Bana plays John Meehan and Connie Britton plays Debra Newell, a couple in California who met online and fell in love. John claimed to be a doctor, just back from volunteer-

ing his services for Doctors Without Borders in Iraq.

Newell, who had already been married multiple times and had grown children, thought John was the man she had always been looking for. Her kids, however, immediately didn't trust him. As they make their concerns known, John succeeded in driving a wedge through Debra's family.

A Los Angeles Times reporter, Christopher Goffard, covered the story and turned it into a wildly successful, addictive podcast. Bana didn't tune in until he heard of the TV project.

"I downloaded and listened to all six very quickly and loved it," he said. "There were parts that I couldn't quite believe really happened." □

Julia Roberts, more movie stars snare Golden Globe TV nods

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Even the sometimes-offbeat Golden Globe Awards are unable to resist the allure of movie stars who dabble in television work.

Julia Roberts, Amy Adams, Jim Carrey and Michael Douglas were among the nominees announced Thursday for next month's awards voted by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Not every film actor made the cut, with Emma Stone and Jonah Hill out of the running for Netflix's "Maniac."

Also snubbed was "This Is Us," one of the few broadcast network shows that has garnered awards respect amid an onslaught of cable and streaming shows. It failed to earn a best drama series bid or recognition for last year's Globes (and previous Emmy Award) winner Sterling K. Brown or the twice-nominated Chrissy Metz.

Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," the defending best drama series winner, was overlooked this time, a sting that follows its loss in this



This image released by FX shows Edgar Ramirez as Gianni Versace in a scene from "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story."

Associated Press

year's Emmys to "Game of Thrones." But "Handmaid's" star Elisabeth Moss and co-star Yvonne Strahovski were nominated.

HBO's "Game" missed out on 2019 Globes consideration because new episodes didn't air within the eligibility window. Instead, Globe voters tipped their hats to the last season of

FX's "The Americans" and newcomers including Netflix's "Bodyguard," a British series about a politician's protector, and FX's "Pose," set in 1980s New York and with a groundbreaking number of transgender cast members.

Donald Glover's "Atlanta" was ignored again as best drama comedy series while

star Glover, who won for his role in 2017, was nominated. His competitors include Carrey for Showtime's "Kidding," Douglas for Netflix's "The Kominsky Method" and Bill Hader, fresh off an Emmy win for "Barry."

Henry Winkler, who claimed an Emmy for his supporting role in HBO's "Barry," also is up for a Globe. The series

itself is competing for top comedy honors against defending Globes champ and Emmy winner "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

Issa Rae, a two-time nominee for "Insecure," didn't earn a best comedy actress bid, but Candice Bergen got a welcome-back hug for CBS' revived sitcom "Murphy Brown." She was a Globes favorite when the original series aired, earning nine nominations and winning a trophy in 1989.

Bergen is part of an all-white field of nominees, including Emmy winner Rachel Brosnahan for "Mrs. Maisel." Glover is the only actor of color in his category, with black actors Billy Porter ("Pose") and Stephan James ("Homecoming") earning best drama series acting bids.

FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" received the leading number of bids, four, including best limited series or TV movie, and nominations for stars Darren Criss, Penelope Cruz and Edgar Ramirez. □

Getty museum says it has right to keep prized Greek statue

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles has vowed to assert its right to keep an important Greek statue after Italy's highest court rejected its appeal of a ruling ordering the artwork returned to Italy.

The Court of Cassation confirmed Wednesday the appeal had been rejected Nov. 30. The court will issue its written reasoning at a later date.

"Victorious Youth," a life-sized bronze dating from 300 B.C. to 100 B.C., is one of the highlights of the Getty collection.

An Italian court in Pesaro had ordered it seized and returned in 2010, at the height of Italy's campaign to recover antiquities looted from its territory and sold to museums and pri-



In this Monday, July 27, 2015 photo, reporter Sookee Chung takes a photo of a sculpture titled "Statue of a Victorious Youth, 300-100 B.C." at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

vate collectors around the globe.

The Getty says Italy has no claim to the bronze, which was pulled from the sea in 1964 by Italian fishermen, purchased by the Getty in 1977 for \$4 million and on display at the Getty since. In a statement this week, the Getty said it would "continue to defend our legal right to the statue," arguing that neither the law nor the facts in the case support returning the statue to Italy.

It's not clear if the Getty will now take an appeal to a European court. Also unclear is if and how the Italian government will try to get the statue back. The Cassation hasn't yet issued its written ruling explaining its decision. □

Revamped museum takes new look at Belgium's colonial past

By **RAF CASERT**

TERVUREN, Belgium (AP)

— For decades, Belgian schoolchildren had come to the Africa Museum near Brussels to marvel at the stuffed animals, drums, ritual masks and minerals that glowed in the darkness of vast cellars. Old colonialists lounged for languid lunches, reminiscing about their glorious past.

Hidden out of sight was the dark side of colonialism in Belgian Congo — the killings, the sepia photos of Congolese whose hands were hacked off purely out of petty retribution.

Not anymore. The museum, long called the last colonial museum in the world, is re-opening on Saturday after more than 10 years spent revamping the building and overhauling its dated, one-sided approach to history.

It's been a huge challenge for director Guido Gryseels, who has to put Belgium's colonial abuse in its context in the very museum that the chief perpetrator of the horrors of Congo had built for his own glory. Worse, the culprit was a former monarch — Leopold II — whose dark legacy has long remained shielded from full scrutiny.

With the museum's reopening, "we provide the critical view of the colonial past," Gryseels said in an interview. "We try to provide the Africa view of colonization." A Congolese artist's statue receives pride of place in the new exhibition space, while many statues rep-



Museum director Guido Gryseels, left, looks out from the new visitor center onto the original Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

Associated Press

resenting the most denigrating, clichéd views of the Congolese have been rounded up into a windowless room.

Still, the palatial 1910 museum is a protected monument, and erasing all the fingerprints of the king and perfidious glorification of colonialism was never an option. Leopold's double-L anagram is still plastered on walls and ceilings as the defiant stamp of a bygone era, and gold-lettered panels still lionize "Belgium offering civilization to Congo." The Royal Palace said that King Philippe will not attend Saturday's ceremonial opening, citing continuing debates on art restitution and disagreements among researchers and the African diaspora. "The king tends to

go to events where consensus reigns," a palace official said.

Gryseels maintains that history has its place, but he says he's not an apologist for colonialism or Belgium's suppression of Congo.

"It's immoral. It's based on the military occupation of a country. It's based on racism. It is based on the exploitation of resources," he said amid crates, ladders and protective foil during the final stages of renovation.

The question is whether the museum's changes are enough to please a more assertive generation of Africans.

"I must say that in recent years the dialogue has become more difficult. The younger generations are far more militant," Gryseels said. "What they say is: 'The proof of the pudding will be in the eating'."

Leopold's ruthless early rule over Congo from 1885 to 1908 is notorious for its brutality when the Congo Free State was practically his personal fiefdom.

American writer Adam Hochschild alleged in his 1998 book "King Leopold's Ghost" that Leopold reigned over the mass death of 10 million Congolese. In fiction, Belgian Congo provided the backdrop for "Heart of Darkness," Joseph Conrad's classic novel

on colonial exploitation.

After Leopold handed over Congo to the Belgian state, the tiny nation continued to hold sway over an area 80 times its size half a world away, until independence in 1960.

Colonialists have long regarded the museum as a haven of nostalgia. "For them, this is their home and they are very nostalgic about this place," Gryseels said. They see Belgium's role in Congo as benign: building roads, providing health care, spreading Christianity and giving Congo a standard of living few others in Africa had at the time.

"They're a bit disappointed about the critical view," he said.

It'd be wrong to assume that all Africans were repulsed by the old museum.

When Congolese-born Aime Enkobo moved to Brussels and wanted to show his children his heritage, he came to the Africa Museum.

"For me it was to show them our culture. What artists did, created, the aesthetics, to explain that. It is what interested me. It was not the images that showed that whites were superior to blacks My kids asked me no questions on that," Enkobo said.

Still, controversy is increasingly commonplace — and it has come from Belgians as well as the Congolese diaspora here.

Critics have increasingly questioned street names honoring colonialists, and statues have been given explanatory plaques highlighting the death and destruction colonialism spawned. A sculpture of Leopold II has had its bronze hand chopped off, and another was targeted with rude graffiti last year.

A lot of work is left. "You won't find a town or city in Belgium, where you don't have a colonial street name, monument or plaque. It is everywhere," said activist and historian Jean-Pierre Laus.

He was instrumental in getting one of the first explanatory plaques next to a Leopold statue in the town of Halle, just south of Brussels, almost a decade ago. Instead of glorifying the monarch, it now reads: "the rubber and ivory trade, which was largely controlled by the King, took a heavy toll on Congolese lives." □



A sculpture called the 'Leopard Man', second left, is stored with others in a cavernous room at the Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

Associated Press



A stuffed elephant on display in the halls of the Africa Museum in Tervuren, Belgium, Thursday, July 12, 2018.

Associated Press